

Four arrested in picket line battle with police at Dover

Sealink go to court as ferry clashes spread

- The first picket-line violence in the P&O dispute led to arrests in Dover after activists clashed with police
Preparations were completed in the Dutch port of Rotterdam for the first P&O sailing to England in 12 weeks
Sealink will seek sequestration of union funds after crews of two ferries refused to cross the picket lines
The company formally dismissed the 720 NUS members who have refused to accept its new terms and conditions

By David Sapsted, Howard Foster and Roland Rudd

The three-month dispute between the National Union of Seamen and P&O European Ferries is expected to enter a more bitter phase today.

The company indicated yesterday the first of its ships would leave Rotterdam today for Dover while the union appeared to be spreading its action by stopping two Sealink ships from sailing.

Picket-line violence broke out for the first time in the

dispute early yesterday when seamen and a number of activists clashed with police. Three men and a woman were arrested and charged as pickets tried to prevent lorries from entering the port at

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Dover. Pickets numbered about 300.

Among those at Dover was Mr Terry French, described by some as "orchestrating" confrontation. Mr French was sentenced on appeal to four years in prison for causing grievous bodily harm to a police officer during the miners dispute four years ago. NUS officials appealed to police to stop him.

In the House of Commons Mrs Thatcher said: "Any violence is a criminal matter. People who resort to it must expect to be dealt with accordingly by the prosecuting authorities and by the courts."

In the High Court, Sealink plans to seek the sequestration of NUS assets after the action by ferry crews who refused to cross the union's picket line, causing the cancellation of two ships.

A company spokesman said: "As a consequence of using the same port as P&O Sealink crews are being intimidated by picket action and prevented from carrying out their duties. Despite reminding the NUS of its responsibility we now have no alternative but to reactivate our outstanding injunction which we now consider places the union in contempt."

Mr Justice Ognall granted Sealink leave to cut the normal two days' waiting time at a brief private hearing.

There were suggestions last night that the NUS planned to mount a second mass picket early this morning at Folkestone in an attempt to stop Sealink services there.

Treading cautiously because of the High Court

hearing, all seamen's leader, Mr Sam McCuskie, said last night: "It is up to the judge to decide what should happen. We have tried to stay within the law but if it is decided that we have not, then I honestly feel this will no longer be a Dover issue, but a NUS issue affecting all our members, particularly those on ferries."

Meanwhile, in Rotterdam preparations were completed yesterday for the departure of the first P&O ferry to sail in 12 weeks. The Pride of Kent now has a full complement of crew and has taken on board sufficient fuel and stores to make the 10 hours' crossing from Holland to Dover.

The next to leave Rotterdam is expected to be the Pride of Bruges followed by the Pride of Saadwich.

A spokesman for P&O said yesterday that morale was high on board the ships and that the final additions to the skeleton crew were expected to arrive on board The Pride of Kent early today.

One of the new rules introduced by the company as part of the radical new employment package forbids the drinking of alcohol by crews on board ship. Yesterday, only food had been put on board The Pride of Kent.

Rosters are still being worked out by P&O for the operation of the ferries once back in service and three crews of about 80 men each are needed to fulfil safety requirements.

The NUS accused the company of keeping some of the ratings in Rotterdam, who will be used to sail the ships back to Dover, against their will. It said it had first hand reports that some of the seamen were not allowed off the ships and asked the Dutch ferry union, the FWZ, to investigate its claims. The company denied the allegations.

The three men and one woman who were arrested on the Dover picket line yesterday faced charges ranging from breach of the peace to

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Police restrain a picket yesterday as demonstrators try to prevent lorries entering the docks (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Coal picket veteran in front line

By David Sapsted

Mr Terry French, in the front line of yesterday's picketing at Dover, is a former Keot miner who was jailed for assault on a police constable during the miners' strike.

In yesterday's clashes outside the port gates, Mr French, aged 37, who was tipped last year as a possible successor to



Mr French: Orchestrated tactics with a loud hailer. The retiring Scottish miners' leader, Mr Mick McGahey, urged seamen to confront "the pigs" as he orchestrated tactics through a loudhailer.

Mr French himself did not take part in the confrontation, which was good humoured until a German lorry, its

Continued on page 24, col 3

Threat of revolt forces concessions on benefits

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Details of the concessions on social security benefit designed to avert another backbench rebellion were being hammered out by senior ministers last night.

At Downing Street Mrs Thatcher met Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Nicholas Scott, the Minister for Social Security, Mr John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the Commons.

They were prepared to meet again early today if necessary and their deliberations were due to be ratified by a meeting of the Cabinet economic committee. Labour is today staging a debate in the Commons on the benefit changes.

Mr Scott was applauded last night when he told a meeting of 80 Conservative MPs he was convinced the Government would do enough to meet their concerns. Doubts have spread well beyond the core of rebels to the most loyal Conservative MPs.

He made it clear that the Government was not looking only at the question of the cut-off to housing benefit for those with savings of £6,000, which many Conservatives want to see raised to £10,000. "Col-

leagues have concentrated on the capital cut-off but there are other places where the shoe pinches and we have got to look at those as well."

Mr Scott said he hoped the Government would be able to show during today's debate that it understood the concerns expressed by its own backbenchers and others in the House.

Earlier, Mrs Thatcher hinted about the concessions when challenged by Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour leader, to say if there would be changes in housing benefit, changes she had denied were necessary when he questioned her only a fortnight before.

She said the system was badly in need of reform and the "substantial structure" of what the Government had introduced this month would stay - a clear indication that some details were to alter.

It was explained in Whitehall that the Government was seeking an "amelioration of the anomalies". The likely cost would be something similar to the £130 million coo-

cession already used to buy off community charge rebels.

Senior ministers last night predicted the Government would come up with a package including the correction of immediate anomalies and a review of the working of the new regulations which did not rule out further corrective action later if further anomalies were picked up.

The Government's business managers were satisfied that the package emerging would be sufficient to head off any serious Conservative rebellion on the Labour motion which calls for a lifting of the capital limit on housing benefit to £10,000.

Conservative MPs have been pressing for a lifting of the £6,000 capital limit and an easing of the "taper" by which housing benefit is withdrawn. They also want action in the cases of elderly people who are refused benefit on the strength of owning unsaleable houses which are classed as accessible capital.

Last night Mr Kinnock said the need to secure housing benefit changes was urgent because there was no transitional protection for those who lost out as there was with some other benefits.

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Nestlé in £2.1bn battle for Rowntree

By David Brewerton

A European takeover battle for Rowntree, the York confectionery and food group, is under way after a £2.1 billion bid from Nestlé was launched yesterday.

Rowntree rejected the approach and declared its determination to remain independent. Mr Kenneth Dixon, the group chairman, said: "The offer from Nestlé is unwelcome and does not reflect the value of Rowntree's unique collection of international brands."

The Nestlé offer had been widely expected. Two weeks ago, another Swiss food group, Jacobs Suchard, pounced to acquire a 15 per cent shareholding in Rowntree. A number of City institutions sold at 630p, compared with the 890p a share offered by Nestlé.

The stock market is now expecting the two Swiss giants to battle for Rowntree, and few are hopeful that Rowntree will retain its independence.

Nestlé has been operating in Britain for 120 years, but has built only a 2 per cent share of the confectionery market, its major product being Milky Bar chocolate.

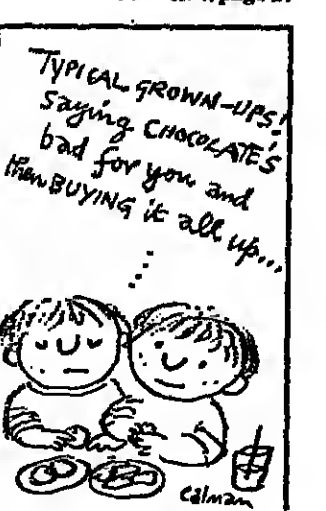
Rowntree, by contrast, has 24 per cent of the market, where its leading brand, KitKat, is second only to Mars in sales. Other big-selling Rowntree products are Quality Street, Smarties, Black Magic, After Eights, Rolos and Polos.

Rowntree's market share puts it in third place in the £5 billion a year market after Cadbury Schweppes and Mars. Nestlé and Suchard are also-rans in Britain.

Herr Helmut Maucher, managing director of Nestlé, put it like this: "Rowntree is strong in the UK. Nestlé not too much so."

The Nestlé offer sent the Rowntree share price soaring 178p to 928p - well above the bid's value because dealers expect a counter offer from Suchard.

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With one daily prize winner yesterday (see page 3), Portfolio Accumulator stands at £50,000 today. Portfolio offers two chances: the daily prize of £4,000, or - if your number is higher than the daily total - the contents of the Accumulator fund.

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The hunt is over: from more than 30,000 entries an outright winner has been found in The Times Tournament of the Mind. The winner - who made only one mistake in the final round - will receive £5,000 and The Times Mind of the Year trophy.

The individual winner's name - and the answers - will be announced in The Times tomorrow

IN PART

Output boom

The CBI says orders and output are booming and a large number of firms plan to boost investment. Page 25

TIMES FOCUS

Plymouth plans to use the Armada commemoration to focus on investment and employment opportunities. Special report. Pages 18, 19

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Broadcasting blueprint IBA rejects Thatcher ideas

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A blueprint for ITV in the 1990s which directly challenges the Government's broadcasting philosophy and specifically rejects three of the Prime Minister's most favoured plans for television was produced yesterday by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

In sharp contrast to present Cabinet thinking, the IBA is vociferously opposed to selling off ITV franchises to the highest bidder in 1992. The auctioning idea would "undermine public service broadcasting on ITV", it says.

Similarly the IBA, which currently controls the existing ITV network of 15 regional stations, argues against Government plans to allow Channel 4 to sell its own advertising airtime, opting for the status quo.

But most surprisingly of all, the IBA continues to be against a Broadcasting Stan-

dards Council, the Government's new television watchdog and a Conservative manifesto pledge, which will be established this summer. The "additional quango ...

If it is to survive, Thames, largest of the ITV companies, must cut 200 jobs and remove all restrictive practices this year to save at least £4 million a year, its 2,300 workers were told yesterday (Our Media Editor writes).

would not be an effective means of enforcing standards", it says.

Instead the IBA, which is anxious to preserve its regulatory role, proposes the novel idea of football-style "yellow cards" and "red cards" - and possible fines - for ITV companies who breach standards of taste, decency, programme quality or political impartiality, with the ultimate

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Five die in fierce Israel border fight

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Two Israeli soldiers, one of them a Lieutenant-Colonel, were killed in a battle in which three gunmen who tried to infiltrate Israel from south Lebanon before dawn yesterday also died.

Two other Israeli soldiers were wounded, one seriously, in the fierce clash between the gunmen and a patrol of the elite Givati Brigade.

The patrol found the three infiltrators' tracks on the western slopes of Har Dov. After a chase involving helicopters, the three were tracked down 200 yards from the security border fence, and the patrol charged, led by its battalion commander. He died as the gunmen fired a missile and three grenades before the patrol overwhelmed them.

Major-General Yossi Peled, the commander of the northern region, said later it was essential for soldiers to carry out these charges to be sure of

killing infiltrators and preventing them reaching Israeli border settlements.

A statement by the "National Resistance Front" in Beirut later claimed the raid had been mounted by Palestinian and Lebanese commandos.

This is the eleventh attempt to infiltrate Israel since a Palestinian hang-glider pilot carried out a suicide raid last November.

Journalists punished: Two senior American journalists yesterday had their official government press accreditation taken away for failing to submit reports to the military censor which claimed Israel had been behind the killing in Tunis of Khalil al-Wazir, the PLO's military commander.

The two, Glenn Frankel of The Washington Post and Martin Fletcher of NBC, were told that they would both be able to continue to report from Israel.

Here is the result of tomorrow's general election

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

An appalling blunder by a local television station has sparked a violent controversy over general elections that are regarded as crucial to South Korea's political stability.

The state-controlled MBC network, on the southern island of Cheju, started viewers on Monday night by announcing a result - 12 hours before the polls opened. To make matters worse, it gave victory to the ruling party candidate by a big margin.

Embarrassed MBC executives said the brief transmission had been a technical error by engineers during a rehearsal for live broadcasting of the actual ballot-counting.

militant students, protested that it was evidence of an attempt by the ruling Democratic Justice Party to manipulate the results by computer fraud.

Within hours of the television "leak", several hundred demonstrators took to the streets in Cheju to protest against what they perceived as electoral fraud. As polling began, students at Yonsei University in Seoul clashed with riot police. Thousands were reported to be planning a bigger demonstration for today.

No matter how innocent the mistake may have been, Democratic Justice Party officials must have been shaking their heads yesterday and wondering what more could go wrong. On the eve of the poll, they ordered their candidate in the south-eastern town of Andong to resign after nearly

4,000 envelopes stuffed with money and campaign leaflets were discovered being posted to voters. Three DJP agents were reported to the police for allegedly giving out similar envelopes in the south-western town of Mokpo.

Despite the furore the ruling party was expected to retain control of the enlarged 299-seat National Assembly by a reduced majority.

Early returns gave the Democratic Justice Party a commanding lead, but not sufficient to ensure an absolute majority. By midnight, partial returns showed the DJP leading in only 86 seats, with no results declared in 20 constituencies. The turn-out was relatively low, and estimated at 72.6 per cent, compared with 89.2 per cent in the presidential election.

The opposition's prospects were diminished by abiding rivalry between its two champions, Mr Kim Dae Jung and Mr Kim Young Sam, which was clearly splitting the opposition vote in the same way as in the presidential election.

Mr Roh has successfully kept himself above the mud-slinging, but the future of his administration may depend upon whether the elections are perceived to have been fair. In particular, his opponents were watching closely for the result from Cheju.

Blaze death: An opposition campaign worker in Taegu died yesterday when five Democratic Justice Party supporters set him alight after he poured paint thinner over himself and dared them to carry out a death threat.

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Merseyside to get NI print plant

A printing works is to be built by News International at one of Britain's unemployment blackspots, it was announced yesterday. The plant, on a 29-acre site at Knowsley, Merseyside, will come into operation in 1990. It will print all the company's titles (*The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun*, *News of the World*, and *Today*) and distribute them throughout the Midlands and north of England.

Hundreds of jobs will be created in the building and manning of the plant, News International said last night. Agreement was reached with the Labour-controlled Knowsley Borough Council after talks with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Jim Keight, the council leader, said: "This is the largest development that the borough has attracted since its creation in 1974". Building is due to start on the Knowsley Industrial Estate in the autumn, and is expected to take about 12 months. The area has an jobless rate of more than 20 per cent.

Open pit opposed

A proposed 300-acre open-cast mine at Pont Einion, near Northop, North Wales, would have such serious environmental effects that the landscape would not recover for several generations, a report concludes. The findings of the "environmental impact assessment" by Richards Moorehead and Laing, the consulting engineers, of Ruthin, Clwyd, emerge soon before the coming into force, due on July 3, of an EEC directive requiring such assessments for many planning applications. The report was commissioned by Delny borough council, which has recommended that the application by British Coal should be refused.

Windmill problem

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that the options suggested by the opponents of nuclear power had themselves raised serious environmental problems. He told the Institute of Energy in London that the Government had put £120 million into research into alternative energy sources and added: "The tidal barrage schemes could have serious impacts on bird and marine life, and some people argue that windmills are far more intrusive on the countryside than any large power station."

Jail control 'struggle'

Prison officers say they are struggling to keep control at Ford open prison, West Sussex. Mr Steve Stone, Prison Officers' Association branch chairman, told a public meeting in Arundel that staff had been threatened with broken bottles, and that one prisoner had come close to gouging out an officer's eye with a ball-point pen. He said that violent prisoners were being "dumped" in open cells designed for non-dangerous offenders, and added: "One group of lifers were told they were to return to a closed prison and grabbed bottles and pens and were only disarmed after a long struggle."

£500 for hurt feelings

A man who claimed sexual discrimination when he was refused a job selling lingerie, was awarded £500 for injured feelings by an industrial tribunal in Glasgow yesterday. Mr Steven Rowan, aged 26, of Hadley Gardens, Southall, Middlesex, was turned down for the job at an Etam shop in Glasgow last year. Etam said contact with customers in a state of undress was inappropriate for a male.

Sunday shops check

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers is to prosecute councils which fail to take action against shops trading illegally on Sundays. At its conference yesterday, the union also called for Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, to enforce the Shops Act, 1950. "Refusal to do so encourages an increasing number of shop owners to break the law on Sundays", it said. The union's legal department will gather evidence to enable it to take action in the courts against councils "who will not act upon their responsibilities".

Evangelicals move towards unity with Rome

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

More than 500 senior Evangelical churchmen, including 65 from the General Synod of the Church of England, have signed a public statement calling on the Pope to renounce such traditional titles as "Vicar of Christ", "successor of the Prince of the Apostles" and "Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church".

They "dare to hope" for such a gesture, they say, as it would reassure them that a remodelled form of the papacy, which they say they might be able to accept, was possible.

Their statement is the strongest indication so far that they are prepared to envisage unity with Roman Catholics in a united church led by a reformed papacy, and marks a significant step towards

unity between the two churches. Evangelicals inherit the Protestant tradition in the Anglican Church, and are traditionally the least enthusiastic towards the Pope.

It has been remarked in recent years that the present Pope does not himself favour the more flowery of his many titles, although "supreme pontiff" (which literally means "chief bridge-builder") is still in use.

The Evangelicals do approve of the Pope's ancient title, "Servant of the Servants of God", however, as an image of pastoral service. And they are prepared to consider a papal role in a united church analogous to that played by the Archbishop of Canterbury in their own church, or the Ecumenical Patriarch in the Orthodox church.

The full range of Evangelical opinion in Anglicanism appears to be represented among the signatories. It is addressed to all the

diocesan bishops of the communion, who are meeting at the Lambeth Conference this summer.

The Evangelical statement takes the form of a long commentary on the official doctrinal agreements issued by the International Commission on the Apostles (ARCIC) over the past 15 years. These it broadly welcomes while raising numerous technical questions and making suggestions for improvement.

On the papacy, which has always been seen as the biggest Evangelical objection to unity between the Anglican and Roman Catholic communions, the signatories declare: "We are not at all convinced that an earthly pastor with universal oversight is desirable."

They would, however, "contemplate" a leadership role similar to that exercised by the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Ecumenical

Patriarch, which was understood as "a certain seniority... to be understood in terms not of coercion but of pastoral service".

The point of such a role would be to express "historical continuity, visible unity, personal affection, and a ministry of brotherly support, but not papal infallibility or universal jurisdiction". Elsewhere, the statement says the claim to papal infallibility "must surely be subject to the supreme authority of Scripture", and it remarks that the Roman Catholic Church now recognizes, "or is very close to recognizing", the principle of scriptural supremacy.

The statement suggests that the commission should now prepare an outline of the form which any official relationship with the Roman Catholic Church could take, and it asks for a definition of the goal of "full visible communion".

Both the Vatican and the Lambeth Conference are due to make a formal judgment on the ARCIC statements this year, after all the episcopal conferences and provinces of the two churches have contributed their views.

The statement, which would have been almost inconceivable 25 years ago, will be taken as setting down a number of markers for future negotiations between the churches.

Evangelical opinion in the Anglican Communion has become notably more sympathetic to the idea of Anglican-Catholic reunion since the publication last year of the ARCIC agreed statement on "Justification by Faith alone", an issue which had been their main sticking point.

The names of 25 bishops are appended to the statement as expressing their "general sympathy" with it.

Thatcher rebukes Haughey on Ulster

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister sharply rebuked Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, yesterday for his criticism of British policy in Ulster.

She exposed clear differences between Downing Street and the Foreign Office over the approach to Irish affairs when she said she hoped that Mr Haughey's speech to Irish republican sympathizers in New York last week did not mean the Irish government was backing away from its security responsibilities under the Anglo-Irish agreement.

She agreed with Mr Michael Mates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East, who suggested Mr Haughey's remarks were irresponsible.

Mrs Thatcher, who pointedly abandoned the conciliatory approach taken by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, infuriated the opposition parties, provoking Mr Kevin McNamara, Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, to shout angrily at her across the floor of the Commons.

Conservative MPs concluded that Mrs Thatcher could not have been pleased with Sir Geoffrey's speech in Derby last Friday when, in response to Mr Haughey's attack, he said that he did not underestimate the "hurt" felt by the Irish in recent months.

Mr Haughey complained of civilians being harassed by security forces in Ulster and said only a new political structure embracing the north and south could accommodate Catholics and Protestants.

Mr Mates asked Mrs Thatcher whether Mr Haughey's attack had not been unhelpful, at a time when people were working hard to improve Anglo-Irish relations, and irresponsible, to have advocated a unitary state when his government had put its name to a document forswearing that outcome until a majority in Northern Ireland wanted it.

Mrs Thatcher said she agreed. "The defeat of terrorism requires unflinching effort and effective cooperation across the border. We shall continue to press for that and to seek reassurance from the Irish government that the speech to which he refers does not mean they are backing away from their responsibilities."

Mr Haughey was accused in the Irish parliament yesterday of never having condemned the IRA since he became prime minister. Opposition speakers claimed during an angry exchange that he was the first Irish premier not to condemn Ulster violence while on an official US visit.

Hunt for arsonist at ordnance depot



By Craig Selton

An arsonist is suspected of starting the second big fire in five years at the Army's central ordnance depot at Donnington, Shropshire, where yesterday 50 detectives and Ministry of Defence police began investigations.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said the fire on Monday that caused millions of pounds worth of damage in a 10-acre covered storage depot and led to an asbestos pollution alert was the second that day in the same building.

He said: "The fact that there were two fires in the same building within a few hours of each other leads one to the conclusion that arson should not be ruled out."

As the police investigation began at the military supplies depot near Telford, one of Nato's largest, more than 100 council workers wearing protective clothing started clearing asbestos dust.

The first fire on Monday in the giant, hanger-like building housing vehicles and technical equipment was seen at 11.30am. Its cause was not known. Then, at 3.15pm almost 200 workers were cleared as the second fire took hold in a different part of the same building.

In 1983 another fire in a similar building caused damage estimated at £150 million and spread asbestos debris over a wide area. That blaze led to an internal Ministry of Defence investigation. Recommendations for greater security against fire risks were still being implemented in building B1, scene of the latest fires.

The Armed Forces minister also rejected a call from Mr Bruce Grogcott, the constituency MP, for a public inquiry. Mr Freeman said there would be an internal inquiry.

Council workers wearing protective clothing clear asbestos debris yesterday after the fire.

Ridley launches Heseltine attack

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Mr Nicholas Ridley yesterday criticized his former Cabinet colleague Mr Michael Heseltine, who as Environment Secretary is accused of instigating the Conservative rebellion against the poll tax.

The attack highlighted the Secretary of State for the Environment's anger at the role played by Mr Heseltine in opposing the measure and the Cabinet's suspicion of his wider motives and leadership ambitions.

Mr Ridley said: "It is always interesting to hear how people's views change when freed from the cares of office."

He said an example was a recent open letter written to him by Mr Heseltine, a former Environment Secretary, in which he protested that the South-East was being "torn up and torn apart" by development.

He told the annual lunch of the Building Materials Producers in London that they had to help improve the climate of understanding within the construction industry about mounting public concern over new developments.

Mr Ridley then ridiculed his former Cabinet colleague saying: "Michael gave his name, albeit unwillingly, to 'Heseltown' and implored planning authorities to adopt a more positive attitude to planning applications". He tells us that circumstances have now changed, and that it is quite wrong to adopt a positive attitude to planning applications. Memories are not so short."

However Mr Ridley warned the building industry not to ignore growing concern at the scale and quality of new development.

The leaders of the Conservative rebellion on the poll tax meet tomorrow to consider their tactics for the Bill's passage in the Lords, and to select a senior peer, possibly Lord Pym, the former foreign secretary, to approach to head their efforts.

Amendments are certain to

Central control of education rejected

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday quashed Conservative hopes of cutting poll tax bills by removing education spending from local authority control.

Conservatives with misgivings about the community charge believe its effects could be mitigated by reducing the proportion of council spending financed locally.

It is argued that the greater the sum financed centrally by taxation, the easier it is for the Government to argue that the funding of local government takes account of ability to pay.

The leaders of the Conservative rebellion on the poll tax meet tomorrow to consider their tactics for the Bill's passage in the Lords, and to select a senior peer, possibly Lord Pym, the former foreign secretary, to approach to head their efforts.

Amendments are certain to

be tabled to take education off the rates. The move would have the backing of many in the Commons who have voted reluctantly for the Bill so far.

Yesterday Mr Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, asked in the Commons for the Prime Minister to look again at the possibility of financing education centrally.

But she said there was no way the Department of Education and Science could administer the entire system; it would mean complete central control of education, which would not be desirable.

The community charge Bill was introduced into the Lords yesterday. Seventeen Conservatives voted against its third reading in the Commons, and a further 20 were thought to have deliberately abstained.

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Hospital may dismiss two consultants

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Two consultants are expected to be dismissed at a London teaching hospital as part of a package of health service cuts designed to save more than £3 million.

The package which includes 137 redundancies among medical, nursing, administrative and ancillary staff at St Thomas's Hospital, south London, was agreed after a seven-hour meeting of West Lambeth health authority on Monday night.

The authority also supported a 25 per cent reduction in outpatient appointments which will cut attendances by 60,000 a year.

Mr John Garnett, chairman of the authority said yesterday that there could be 50 compulsory redundancies. Because of existing outsourcing shortages no nurses would lose their jobs. Four consultants would be offered early retirement and two more were likely to be dismissed.

General managers have been asked to identify a further £500,000 savings to stay within legal cash limits.

The authority has already asked the South-East Thames Regional Health Authority to help it with an additional overspend of £2.8 million carried forward from last year.

Meanwhile the final battle to save Westminster Hospital opens tomorrow when an alternative scheme for the district's health services is announced.

Riverside Health Authority plans to close the hospital and three others to concentrate services in a new 700-bed complex to be built at St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, south-west London.

The fully-costed scheme proposes a new Westminster Hospital on the site of the medical school and nurses' home in Marsham Street. Money would be raised by redeveloping the old hospital and Westminster Children's Hospital for homes and offices.

The Page Street building would become a bigger children's hospital.

Businesses should help elderly patients beat NHS waiting lists by sponsoring private hip operations, Mrs Edwina Currie said yesterday.

The Under Secretary of

State for Health welcomed the decision by a magazine for pensioners, *Retirement World*, to cancel its launch party to pay for a £2,000 hip replacement operation for one of its readers.

Mrs Marguerite Law, aged 75, from Moseley, West Midlands, had been told by her general practitioner that she would have to wait three years for NHS surgery. "The Government welcomes any co-operation between the public and the private sectors which can be of benefit to the patients", Mrs Currie said.

Her comments were criticized by Mr Robin Cook, Labour's social services spokesman, who said the magazine's action was in bad taste. "It is an outrage and demeaning. Patients deserve to expect their operations as of right and not to assist in commercial stunts."

Mr Jim Robbins, managing director of the magazine, said: "If we can sponsor one person for an operation what could the industrial giants do for their own pensioners?"

The Department of Health and Social Security said: "When old people are ill and

in pain it is all they can often think about. We see nothing wrong with private businesses sponsoring operations."

Several health authorities are approaching businesses for sponsorship. Mr Peter Davidson, income generation officer at Worcester and District health authority, said: "If there is sponsorship cash available health authorities should also be trying to attract it."

LEUKAEMIA

The fight goes on

Many of you will have seen the television documentary on Sunday night recording the outstanding effort made by

IAN BOTHAM

and his team retracing Hannibal's footsteps in aid of the

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Drastic steps sought to ease overcrowded sky

Safety is key to expected rise in air traffic demand

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Fundamental changes in the way international flights are organized must be made if the increased demand for air travel is to be met safely, MPs were told yesterday.

Many of the measures which are necessary to accommodate the predicted increase must be faced if safety and the long-term health of the industry are to be maintained, according to the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the authority, told the Commons select committee on transport yesterday that safety requirements meant that for the next few years there would be inevitable flight delays while new air traffic control procedures, equipment and working practices were introduced.

British Airways started a month-long trial smoking ban yesterday on its Glasgow-Heathrow flights.

For many travellers, only one hour without a cigarette was almost too much to bear. As they left the first flight into London from Glasgow, some were already lighting up.

Mr Alastair Robertson, national flying. Flights might also be directed to a particular airport, depending on destination. For example, east-bound flights might leave from Stansted, south-bound from Gatwick and west-bound from Heathrow.

Mr Tugendhat said in a report to the committee that curbs on airline flights would be anti-competitive. Easing night-flying restrictions would cause an environmental outcry, while restrictions on private flying would be contrary to existing policy under which all users of air space are treated equally.

"Sectorization" of airports, so that traffic flowed in one direction, would be fiercely resisted, particularly by foreign airlines. It would prevent full freedom of choice for passengers, the report said.

It said the CAA had

launched a big internal research project into possible changes. A full report would be submitted to the Government later this year.

"It will be necessary for government to provide a clear coherent framework of policy embracing and establishing priorities between, all the main elements of the equation and this will clearly require some hard decisions to be taken."

Mr Tugendhat said present concern over air misses was only a small part of the problem. The number of commercial aircraft involved in risk-bearing air misses had not changed significantly in the past three years and was much lower than 10 years ago.

There were 11.3 air misses for every 100,000 hours flown in 1977, 2.6 in 1984, 2.9 in 1985 and 2.8 in 1986.

Changes were being negotiated with air traffic controllers in an attempt to concentrate more effectively the number of trained staff on duty at peak times. This had led to "a great deal of debate and some apprehension amongst those engaged in air traffic control".

Although agreement had been reached on big pay increases, these had not been implemented pending detailed local manning agreements.

The report rejected suggestions that air traffic controllers were over-worked. It said that many were doing a second job in their spare time, a practice which could be outlawed.

Growth in air traffic would mean that far more controllers would be needed, although changes in working practices would lead to a notional cutback of about 70 jobs. Recruiting targets had been doubled.

The report rejected claims by the Institute of Professional Civil Servants, which represents the controllers, that military airspace could be made available to ease overcrowding. "In the South-east, where the greatest pressures are currently evident, there are no military training areas in the upper air space. At lower levels, resistance to expansion of controlled air space comes mainly from flying clubs and gliding enthusiasts."

Appeal for steam train



The King George V locomotive, once the pride of the Great Western Railway, may be saved from enforced retirement by enthusiasts who are launching a £60,000 appeal next month.

The 140-tonne locomotive has been in the care of the Eaker cider company at Hereford, which leased it from the National Railway Museum in York 15 years ago.

However, the company no longer wishes to sponsor it. The 6000 Locomotive Association, named after the engine's number and made up of steam enthusiasts such as Mr John Phipps (above), is negotiating to take over the lease. It hopes to raise funds for the seven-yearly boiler refit it needs to keep its certificate to run on

British Rail tracks. The locomotive was built in 1927 and once crossed the Atlantic to celebrate the centenary of the Baltimore and Ohio railway. It was withdrawn from service in 1964. Buhner used it initially on its factory railway but since British Rail relaxed restrictions on privately-owned locomotives in the 1970s it has carried fare-paying passengers to Chester, Newport, Swindon, Gloucester, Didcot and Plymouth.

Mr Stephen Philp, chairman of the association, said it would be "terribly sad" to see the locomotive withdrawn again. He was confident the funds would be raised to keep it running. (Photograph: Lindsay Wilson)

Suburban life draws families from cities

By David Walker
Public Administration Correspondent

Britain is becoming a country of suburbanites, a study by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys discloses.

The study, published yesterday, shows more and more people live in areas with a density of between 15 and 40 people a hectare (2.47 acres), the sort of concentration usually experienced in suburban districts.

The number of people living in crowded city centres continues to fall, as does the population in remote rural districts where densities can be one person to two hectares.

The highest rate of population growth is in wards with suburban densities. Those living in wards with 50 or more people to the hectare fell by 5 per cent over the 10 years to 1981. In the same decade, the numbers living in rural wards fell by 5 per cent.

London remains the most crowded city in England and Wales. The most densely populated 25 kilometre square at the time of the 1981 census was that covering inner London, with more than 60 people a hectare.

In 1981, inner London had 8.9 million people compared with 6.7 million in 1971. Population Density and Concentration in England and Wales 1971 and 1981. (Stationery Office: £7.60).

Probation officers criticize curfews

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Probation officers clashed with the Government yesterday over proposals for a shift in their traditional role to enforce new sentences, including curfews.

The National Association of Probation Officers said the ideas were unworkable. Mr Bill Beaumont, general secretary, said: "Proposals about operating a curfew and pinning people to their homes amount to a shift in the probation officers' role to a policing role or being 'screws' (prison officers) on wheels."

Mr John Patten, Home Office Minister of State, yesterday told a conference of the Central Council of Probation Committees there was a window of opportunity for the probation service, to increase the range and number of offenders it supervised, which should not be missed.

clearly to demand more of offenders than conventional treatment.

"In some cases there has to be a sufficiently close element of supervision to enable any temptation to reoffend to be checked. This may mean, for example, returning an offender to be physically in a certain place at a certain time."

The service already practised control, both in the operation of community service orders and even in the operation of probation orders.

Earlier, on BBC Radio, Mr Patten said people who

committed non-violent or less serious offences could be put under curfew instead of being sent to overcrowded prisons.

"We want to punish people and control people more in the community and less in prison for non-violent, less serious crimes", Mr Patten said.

Mr Beaumont said there was a careful balance of help and supervision by probation officers. If ministers proceeded in the direction they were going they would be in danger of destroying the balance and producing a demoralized probation service.

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Travel aid for motorists of the future

'Thinking radio' means end to knob-twiddling

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

The first "smart" car radio has been launched to take advantage of the new European-wide Radio Data System which enables radios to re-tune automatically, identify stations by name and set simply their frequency number, and provide travel news on demand.

Volvo, which announced the first RDS car radio yesterday, believes it will be safer because drivers will no longer be distracted when reception deteriorates and another station must be selected.

In the long term it will be possible for the new generation of radios to interrupt music or interviews with local traffic news. The motorist will also be able to select a type of programme at the start of a journey, leaving the radio to maintain that choice.

Mr Johnny Beering, chairman of the BBC and European RDS experts group, said yesterday: "I believe within five or six years there will not be a car radio without RDS". Last week the BBC met electrical manufacturers to encourage them to develop a portable radio for the home capable of

accepting the inaudible digital RDS signal.

"I would like to see an RDS home radio on the market within 18 months for about £100", Mr Beering, controller of Radio One, added. He believes the RDS car radios may eventually come down in price to less than £400 though the complete Volvo system will cost almost £800.

Initially, the attraction of RDS is its ability to identify radio stations on the increasingly crowded VHF network. The 25 VHF stations which can be received around London could double in the next three years.

RDS is a rare example of European collaboration, as a standardized signal has been accepted by all countries. For the multi-lingual that will mean being able to listen to travel news automatically when travelling on the Continent.

An identikit system for cars won a £20,000 award from Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, yesterday for its further development.

The idea, which was put forward by Police Constable Simon Graunham, of the Dorset force, is to help children identify cars which they have been enticed into.

Free legal help for small businesses

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A scheme to give free legal advice to people starting small businesses has won support from more than 1,000 lawyers. It was launched yesterday at a joint conference of the Law Society and Business in the Community.

The Prince of Wales, president of Business in the Community, sent a statement to the conference in which he said he hoped "the introduction of your new scheme will promote a clearer understanding of the needs and aspirations of small businesses, and that businesses will recognize the added value which solicitors can bring to their enterprises".

After the initial interview any further consultations would be paid for as normal.

At the conference in Brixton, south-west London yesterday, Mr Robin Smith, a Law Society council member, said enterprise agencies were creating some 100,000 new jobs a year, but there was a lack of involvement by solicitors.

"This is surprising: research from Southampton enterprise agency has shown that some 33 per cent of problems have a legal context; yet solicitors are hardly involved in dealing with them."

Solicitors were geared to helping medium to large firms, but not small firms or employees who were leaving to set up on their own.

"We think the scheme fulfils a real need, not only for small businesses, but for solicitors. It will focus their attention on areas of work where they have a large part to play but where, historically, they have not played it."

Under the Lawyers for Enterprise scheme, a free consultation which could cover finance, tax, premises, franchising and insurance, is given to the aspiring businessman. Application forms will be available, from June, at town halls, citizens' advice bureaux and Business in the Community agencies.

It says staff have been threatened and work disrupted at the 13 area offices. Unrestricted access for legal applicants has led many to call, "making prolonged and time-wasting visits", the society says.

It is sending notices to all legal aid applicants asking them not to visit area offices but to write, or if urgent, telephone.

An appointment at a centre might be arranged only in special circumstances. Solicitors are also being urged to impress on clients that visits without appointments may be a waste of time.

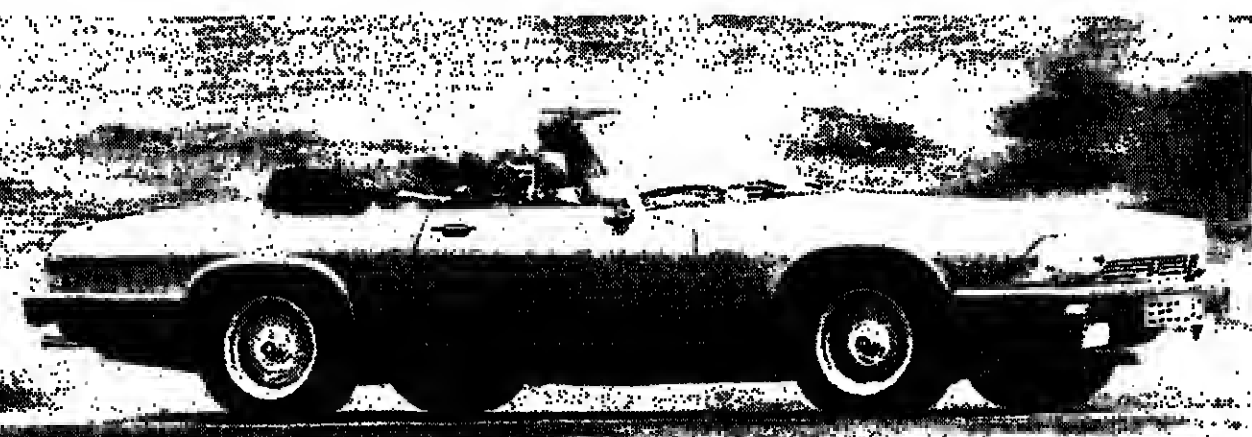
Graceful launch for Jaguar's £36,000 new car

By Our Motor Industry Correspondent

Grace and not a little pace have been part of the Jaguar ethos since the "Grace, space and pace" advertising slogan appeared in 1946. Today's launch of the XJS convertible, at £36,000, Jaguar's most expensive car, underlines that not much has changed.

The first Jaguar convertible since the legendary E-Type was winning orders before customers had seen it or heard the price. In London, there is a two-year waiting list for the 150 mph, V12 engine car.

Mr Roger Putnam, Jaguar's sales director says: "People who like the best will have a Mont Blanc fountain pen, a Rolex watch and a Jaguar convertible." As disposable income has grown rapidly in Britain, so sales of luxury cars



The Jaguar XJS convertible: 150 mph, electric hood, air conditioning, two-year waiting list (Photograph: Graham Wood).

have almost doubled in the past two years.

Half of the 5,000 convertibles built each year will be exported to the American "sunshine states". The car has

both an electrically operated hood and air conditioning.

Despite appearing to be simply an XJS coupe without a roof, it cost £25 million to develop the convertible ver-

sion, a car that was originally planned in the 1970s but never built until American laws were relaxed once more.

The new car is the first Jaguar has developed using a

team management approach with experts collaborating from each discipline in the company. Jaguar attributes the early launch of the car to the success of this scheme.

Heritage bodies save work for nation

Tate acquires a rare Stubbs

The Tate Gallery has acquired an important and rare work by George Stubbs, thanks to an initiative by Sotheby's and grants from two heritage bodies.

Painted on a Wedgwood earthenware oval and showing a "Young Gentleman Shooting", his loyal dog watchful at his side, the work is unusual for the artist because it does not feature horses and it is painted with enamels.

The last time such a Stubbs came on to the market was in 1978, when Christie's sold one depicting labourers for £300,000 to Paul Mellon. That price could well have doubled today.

"The owner was having it reappraised for insurance purposes when its tremendous value became apparent", Sotheby's negotiator, Mr Tim Sammons, said yesterday. "He had inherited it from a relative in the early 1970s."

The undisclosed price for

which has been underground for the past 90 years, fetched more than five times its estimate when it emerged at Christie's English drawings and water-colours sale yesterday.

Entitled "The Order of Release" and based on an oil painting now in the Tate Gallery, it shows a killed Highlander being reunited with his wife and child after the Jacobite Rebellion.

Commissioned in 1863 by the dealers Agnew, the painting was last seen at Christie's when Agnew sold it in 1901. It was bought yesterday by Roy Miles, another London dealer.

Another Pre-Raphaelite work, a study of Elizabeth Siddal by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, sold for twice its estimate, at £18,700 to the dealers Hazitt, Gooden and Fox.

It was one of many portraits by the artist of the invalid beauty who became his wife.

No sell-off at the V&A, says new chairman

By Andrew Billen

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, the new chairman of the Victoria and Albert Museum, said yesterday that the museum is facing formidable problems, but selling exhibits was not the solution.

Lord Armstrong, who retired as Cabinet Secretary last year, said there was much to be done about the building's fabric.

"The museum has powers as to when it can dispose of items. I do not see it as part of my brief to widen them."

He supported voluntary entrance charges. "We are clearly going to have to find means of raising money other than from the Government."

Lord Armstrong succeeds Lord Carrington, chairman since 1983, who becomes chairman of Christie's at the end of June. Lord Armstrong will remain secretary of the board of directors of the Royal Opera House.

District profile: Adur

Liberals defend southern stronghold

By David Walker

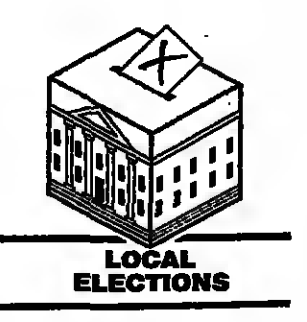
Adur district, the stretch of south coast between Brighton and Worthing, West Sussex, encompassing the old towns of Shoreham and Lancing, is a jewel in the Liberal Party's local government crown.

The Liberals long ago replaced Labour as the opposition to the Conservatives. After 20 years of pavement work, the party broke out of its power base west of the Adur to take control of the district in 1986.

Thanks perhaps to the Liberals, turn-out in Adur is higher than the average, with figures of more than 50 per cent not unusual in some wards.

Thirteen seats are being contested, of which the Liberals hold seven.

Mr Robert Dunn, leader of the Conservatives, said: "The Liberals are politically motivated; they live their politics."



The Tories are old style; they just don't put in the hours."

It will take a considerable push for the Conservatives to gain the four seats they need for control, even assuming two councillors representing Shoreham Beach Residents vote with them. However, Mr Dunn is confident of acquiring at least a slim majority.

Working against them is a nagging uncertainty among Shoreham's older citizens about the effect of the social

security changes and residual anxiety about the health service.

In an area of comparatively modest means among the light industrial estates, Shoreham port and retirement homes, the issue of council finance is being seized on by the Conservatives. Rates went up by 9.1 per cent this month although that was due at least in part to a 10 per cent increase in the demands of the Conservative-controlled county.

Mr Dunn said: "The Liberals have been profligate. Our main plank is that services can be improved while the rates are held down."

Mr Martin King, the Liberal council leader, provides an enthusiastic account of non-dogmatic municipal activism, including recent initiatives to ensure that elderly people are warm in winter and to encourage dog owners to clear up after their pets.

"The cuts in housing benefit

are a doorstep issue; it is the elderly owner occupiers who are being badly hit. Of some 3,500 people getting rate rebates last year, we estimate some 50 per cent are now 'losing out', he said.

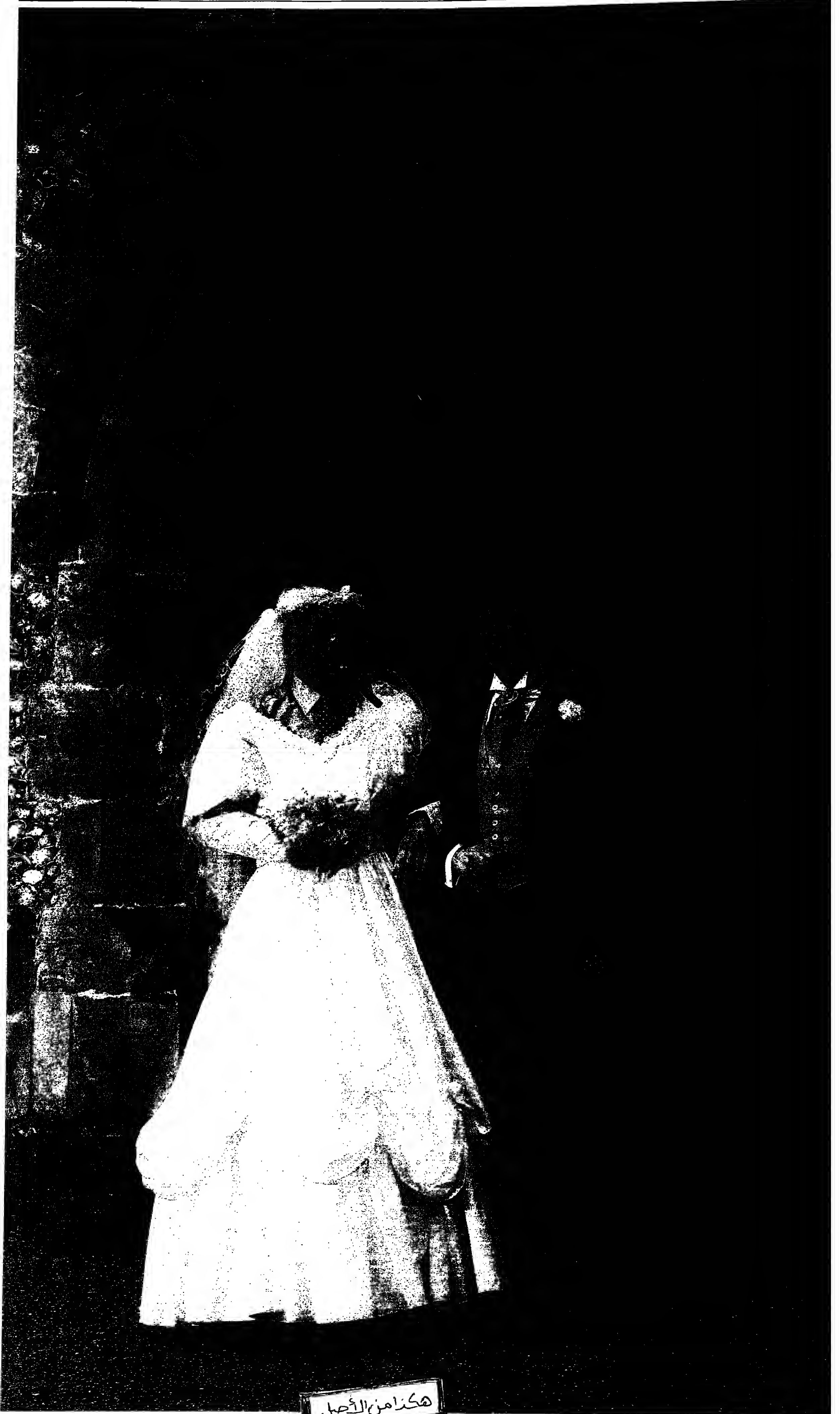
In Southwick, where Mr King is standing, an issue which cuts across party lines is the recent approval given by the Government for the construction of the Brighton by-pass road.

A battle to save Southwick Hill succeeded, but Southwick traders are fretful of competition from an associated superstore.

The Liberals, who are fielding two candidates from the former Social Democratic Party, are untroubled by any Owenite fringe.

They intend keeping close to the pavement in an effort, once again, to keep a blob of yellow in the blue expanse of the South.

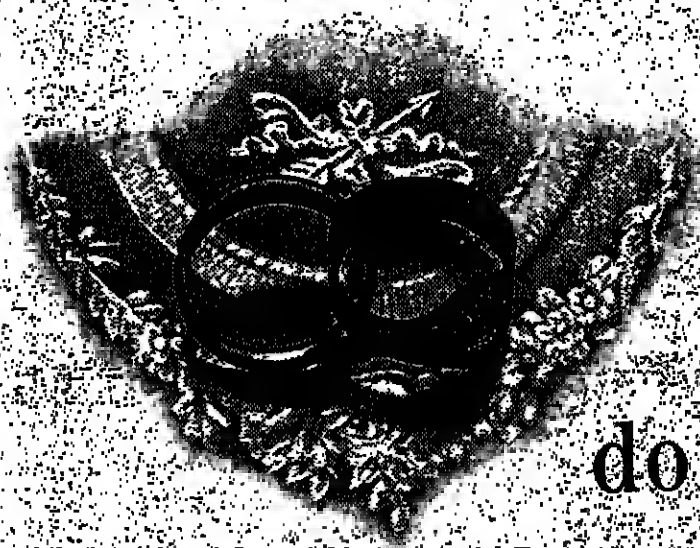
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Most people would agree that time is the one thing we could all do with more of.

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Boesak launches Thatcher attack

Gaborone (Reuter) — The Rev Allan Boesak, the South African anti-apartheid leader, yesterday accused Mrs Thatcher of showing less concern for imprisoned black children than for the future of the controversial athlete, Zola Budd. Dr Boesak said at a news conference in the Botswana capital that Western nations, particularly Britain and West Germany, held the key to the South African problem. But instead, he said that "Mrs Thatcher has more concern for Zola Budd not participating in the Olympics than for black children languishing in prisons in South Africa."

● **JOHANNESBURG:** Britain is committed to fight apartheid but will increase its aid for black education and welfare in South Africa rather than walk away from the country's problems, Mr Robin Renwick, the British Ambassador to South Africa, said yesterday.

Court rules for PLO

The Hague — The International Court of Justice unanimously ruled here yesterday that the United States should submit to arbitration in its dispute with the United Nations over the threatened closure of the Palestine Liberation Organization's mission in New York (Mark Fuller writes). The UN had appealed for an advisory opinion.

Inquiry clears Bofors

Delhi (Reuter) — An Indian parliamentary inquiry yesterday brushed aside charges that bribes or commissions were paid to help Bofors, the Swedish weapons firm, clinch an artillery sale. The report said there was "no evidence to substantiate the allegations of commissions or bribes having been paid to anyone". Opposition members jeered as the report was presented to the Upper House. The report said the government would not cancel the contract or demand reimbursement from Bofors for payments to three non-Indian companies for consultancy and marketing services.

New no-licence radio

Wellington (Reuter) — The New Zealand Government is planning to deregulate broadcasting, opening the industry to new radio and television companies that would not need licences before they go on the airwaves. It will also open the country to so-called narrowcasting, permitting satellite and cable transmissions to specialized groups such as sports fans, movie buffs and the financial industry. A spokesman said the move was aimed at improving economic efficiency and consumer choice. No timetable for the changes has been made yet.

Turkey halts talks

Luxembourg — Turkey's relations with Greece and the EEC were severely dented yesterday after its Foreign Minister, Mr Mesut Yilmaz, walked out of a meeting with his Community counterparts because of a row over the wording of an EEC declaration on Cyprus (Richard Owen reports). The planned EEC-Turkey Association Council was abandoned, to the obvious delight of Greece, which had insisted on the controversial reference to the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus in the EEC text.

North diary demand

Washington — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday voted to subpoena the private diaries of Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, arguing that the 2,848 hand-written pages of notes by the former National Security Council aide might be essential to Senate investigations of international drug smuggling (Michael Binyon writes). During the Iran-Contra hearings last summer Colonel North provided 1,269 pages of notes to the congressional investigators, but the entries were heavily edited or censored. The diaries must now be submitted uncensored.

Missile modernization

Nato delays move on deployment

From Michael Evans, London and Frederick Bonnart, Brussels

Nato defence ministers are expected this week to approve a "step-by-step" programme to modernize the remaining nuclear weapons in Europe, although a political decision on deployment of the new arms will be put off for up to two years, sources said. The ministers, meeting tomorrow and Thursday for a Nuclear Planning Group session switched from Kolding in Denmark to Brussels, will agree to the principle of finding alternative systems for the existing 70-mile-range land-based Lance missile and the air-launched nuclear free-fall bomb. But the sources said that no package of measures would be announced.



Professor Rupert Scholz Bonn — The announcement yesterday by Chancellor Kohl of West Germany that his new Defence Minister is to be Professor Rupert Scholz, a man with no military background, has surprised the armed forces (Our Correspondent writes). Professor Scholz, aged 50, a West Berlin senator with no seat in the Bundestag, will take over on May 18 from Herr Manfred Wörner, who in July succeeds Lord Carrington as Nato's Secretary General. He will inherit many problems in one of Bonn's most difficult jobs.

The West Germans have made it clear that they will not be pushed into approving a deployment decision until it is absolutely necessary. They want to hold off an announcement for between 18 months and two years. Although Mrs Thatcher fought hard at the March summit for a nuclear modernization programme, the step-by-step approach towards that goal has now been accepted both by Britain and the US.

The defence ministers will adopt as low a profile as possible at the Brussels meeting, because of the wish to keep the West German Government happy.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats are facing state elections in Schleswig-Holstein on May 8, and if Nato were to take a decision this week on modernizing and "adjusting" the short-range nuclear weapon systems it would damage the election chances of the Christian Democrat candidates.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the West German Defence Minister who will be attending his last Nuclear Planning Group meeting before succeeding Lord Carrington as Nato Secretary General, is expected to follow Bonn's policy to the letter, underlining the view that now is not the time to announce a deployment decision on modernizing nuclear weapon systems. Nato's High-Level Group will produce a report that outlines the favoured systems for the future.

The group has been examining modernization, following the decision in 1983 to reduce the number of nuclear weapons

in Europe and update those remaining. Their report will also focus on the redeployment of existing weapons systems, such as American F-111 bombers and cruise missile-armed nuclear-powered submarines to Europe, to adjust for the removal of intermediate-range missiles under the INF Treaty. The report will highlight the progress made in developing a follow-on Lance missile.

Bush abandons blacks to woo other minorities

From Christopher Thomas Philadelphia

Vice-President George Bush had no chance of capturing black votes in the Pennsylvania primary yesterday. He made sure of that when he stood on stage at a south Philadelphia union hall with former mayor, Mr Frank Rizzo, and accepted his endorsement.

The gesture demonstrated his virtual abandonment of the black vote in favour of seeking out other ethnic groups and disgruntled white conservative Democrats. Mr Rizzo, regarded by most blacks as an out-and-out racist, is both ethnic and a former Democrat. And he is Mr Bush's campaign chairman in Philadelphia.

The Vice-President, who upset black leaders recently by appearing on a Chicago stage with Mr Edward Vrdolyak, a Democrat turned Republican who has often clashed with black political figures in Illinois. "I suppose there is some potential problem," Mr Peter Teeley, Mr



Bush's chief spokesman, conceded. Mr Rizzo was narrowly beaten in a bitter, racially divided election last year by Mr Wilson Goode, Philadelphia's first black mayor.

Mr Bush, clearly aware that he was sacrificing any chance of black support, publicly denounced racist accusations against Mr Rizzo, saying they were unfair, outrageous, and reverse discrimination.

"People who raise the question are suggesting that 49 per cent of the people of Philadelphia are racists because they voted for a man who has been mayor of the city and who

was campaigning on things that appealed to them," he added.

Mr Bush's strategists believe that support from people like Mr Rizzo and Mr Vrdolyak will boost his support from conservative southern Democrats and northern ethnic groups. Mr Teeley described them as "stand-up, wave-the-flag Americans. We have to take a percentage of that vote."

Mr Michael Dukakis, the son of Greek immigrants and the probable Democratic presidential nominee, is likely to capture most ethnic votes, however. Mr Bush's calculated neglect of black political sensitivities is clearly aimed principally at attracting Democrats who may find the Massachusetts governor far too liberal for their taste.

Black leaders say they have seen nothing so far that would justify Mr Bush's assertion that as President he would give minority groups a more sympathetic ear. "George Bush, like the Republican Party, has not made up his mind about the role of minorities in the party," Mr Vernon

Jordan, a prominent black leader and former head of the National Urban League, said.

Mr Bush hopes to duplicate President Reagan's success in 1980 and 1984 in capturing ethnic support. "I've sent a signal that I want a vote from people in these ethnic com-

Washington (Reuter) — The US Supreme Court has caused uproar among civil rights groups by deciding to reconsider one of its most important civil rights rulings, which gave blacks equality with whites in jobs and other private activities. In a 5-4 vote it said it would consider overturning its 1976 decision prohibiting racial discrimination in all private contracts.

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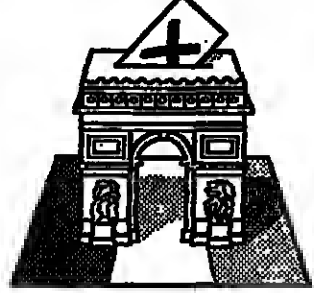
communities who believe in the same things I do in terms of the importance of neighbourhood, family, race and these things," he declared. The Vice-President concentrated his Pennsylvania campaign in economically depressed areas to the west of the state, telling somewhat

phlegmatic crowds of unemployed people that "we cannot simply discard good hard-working men and women." He told the Greater-Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce at a packed luncheon: "They need us. We need them." As voting booths opened across Pennsylvania yesterday, Mr Dukakis and the Reverend Jesse Jackson sparred gently over how each would handle a terrorism crisis as President. Monday was a day of total muddle in the Jackson camp as he summoned a string of press conferences, issued several press releases as "clarification", and yet continually contradicted himself on the question of negotiations and concessions. Mr Dukakis, in the new kid gloves rivalry between the Democratic rivals, would not be drawn into saying anything critical about Mr Jackson's position, whatever that was.

● **WASHINGTON:** The Rev. Jackson told State Department officials yesterday that South Africa should be treated as a terrorist nation for backing Mozambique rebels.

Mitterrand moves battleground to conservative centre

From Philip Jacobson, Paris



The push for victory in the second round of the French presidential election began in earnest yesterday with both contenders staking out the ground on which they will seek crucial new support.

In a speech to a rally in Guadeloupe in the French Antilles, President Mitterrand set his cap at the moderate conservative centre, expressing the hope that "no responsible candidate" would consider an alliance with the National Front party of M Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The agenda for his rival, M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, began with a strategy session in Paris and was followed by an address to the combined parliamentary forces of the mainstream conservative factions.

After the unpleasant surprise he received from first-round voters on Sunday, the watchword in the Chirac camp is said to be "act fast and involve everybody".

The thrust of M Mitterrand's message from the Caribbean yesterday was aimed at supporters of M Raymond Barre, the defeated centre candidate. Although M Barre has asked his supporters to back the Prime Minister on May 8, a significant proportion are thought to find the idea of M Chirac wooing M Le Pen's jubilant followers hard to stomach.

M Chirac's observation on television on Monday that he "understood" why almost 15 per cent of the French electorate had been won over by the National Front's campaign will certainly have strengthened that concern. M Mitterrand, in expressing the hope that no presidential candidate would enlist support from the extreme right, was

sending M Barre's supporters a personal invitation to switch to him. Could that mean that, despite the apparently favourable voting arithmetic for the run-off — first polls suggest he will romp home with 53 to 55 per cent — the Sphinx is becoming rattled?

On the long flight yesterday to the Antilles, the President made it clear to journalists that he was worried about complacency setting in among supporters. "It's going to be closer than the polls are saying," he insisted. "I certainly won't complain about getting 51 per cent."

While M Chirac is itching for their television confrontation tomorrow night, the President appears to have reservations. "I've got more to lose than Chirac, because he likes this sort of thing and I don't," he observed.

On the other hand, M Mitterrand claims to doubt the significance of the event he describes as a "circus game". His immediate predecessor, M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, may talk about picking up an extra half-million votes after a strong performance during the 1974 campaign, but the incumbent President begged to differ, shaping the figure nought with his fingers.

Elsewhere on the political front, the Le Pen factor

continued to make most of the headlines. With the detailed breakdown of Sunday's voting now available, it is clear that the grand perturbateur made important advances outside the National Front's traditional strongholds in the racially troubled big cities of the south.

Though M Le Pen did well in Marseille, Nice, Cannes and Toulon, he can draw even greater satisfaction from unexpected successes in such traditionally centre-right regions as Alsace, where he outscored both M Chirac and M Barre.

Paris was another happy hunting ground for M Le Pen, with his share of the vote running between 15 and 20 per cent. Confirmation of his appeal to angry, fearful and dispossessed protest voters came with the figure from former Communist fiefdoms north of Paris.

Oddly enough for the son of a Breton fisherman, M Le Pen did not prosper in that economically hard-pressed region. In Rennes, he was pushed into fourth place, though still more than doubling the combined score of the hard left.

M Barre, whose public and pointed close-poll criticism of the National Front's "racism and xenophobia" did not endear him to the Chirac camp, may be out of the race, but his 16.5 per cent of the votes keeps him very much in the spotlight. A cartoon in yesterday's Liberation showing his rounded figure straggling alongside a rather worried-looking M Chirac. Close behind them came a ghostly pair of jackboots. "Don't turn round," warns the Prime Minister, "YOU are being followed."

Kanaks clash with loyalists

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

Violence in the troubled Pacific territory of New Caledonia took an ominous turn yesterday with direct clashes between Kanak rebels and French loyalists. At the same time, fighting came within six miles of the capital, Noumea, arousing fears for the safety of the many foreign tourists still on the islands.

So far, 8,000 French soldiers and gendarmes have failed to restore order since last weekend's local elections, or to find the 16 guerrillas still being held hostage on the coral atoll of Ouvéa. They were captured four days ago after Kanaks overran the police barracks, hacking three gendarmes to death. A fourth gendarme died in hospital after being flown to Sydney.

Throughout the day, there was fighting between heavily-armed and hooded Kanak separatists and loyalists who have formed vigilante groups. These are the clashes the French Government fears the most, since they could lead to

prolonged civil strife in New Caledonia.

M Bernard Pons, the French Minister for Overseas Territories, who has been sent to the islands to direct operations to free the hostages, has ordered security forces to take a tough line with the kidnapers. "I have given instructions that all those who attack the armed forces or commit acts of violence are to be neutralized," he said.

The leader of the pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) has called M Pons's statement "a declaration of colonial war" and has warned that the separatists will continue what he called their "mobilization".

The FLNKS, which has claimed responsibility for the recent murders and hostage taking, is divided into several factions, including the hard-line United Kanak Liberation Front, led by Mr Yann-Celene Uregei.

Mr Uregei is the chief pro-Libyan activist in the South Pacific and many of the Front's militant groups have received training in Libya in recent years.

The whereabouts of the 16 hostages remains a mystery, but they are reported to have been split into small groups to avoid detection by the French forces. They are said to be safe and unharmed.

Military reinforcements have been flown to Ouvéa and they are being led by a 20-man elite anti-terrorist squad sent from Paris on the instructions of the French Government.

● **NOUMEA:** About 30 civilians were airlifted from the embattled eastern town of Canala yesterday. Another 100 civilians have taken refuge in the police station (AFP reports).

Melanesian snipers were reported to be firing randomly in the town, where telephone links and the electricity supply have been cut.

Retrieving bricks in the Wall



East Germans, working in West Berlin territory under the scrutiny of a border guard, remove stones of the old Berlin Wall, which broke down on Monday. Their watchful guard keeps his vigil from the new concrete wall. Meanwhile, early yesterday, two East Germans used a ladder to get over the Wall to the West because their applications to leave legally had been rejected.

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US remains 'nation at risk' from poor school results

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Five years after authorities produced a chilling report on the catastrophic decline of standards in American education, President Reagan yesterday received a follow-up report which said the corner had been turned.

The Secretary of Education, Mr William Bennett, told the President that although some schools had been rescued from the brink, many were not doing well enough and improvements were still "disappointingly slow".

American education had made some undeniable progress in the past few years, the report said. The precipitous slide of previous decades had been arrested and authorities had begun the long climb back to reasonable standards.

But the country was not doing well enough. "We are still at risk," Mr Bennett said, referring to the 1983 report, A

Nation at Risk.

That report led to many education reforms, including a stiffening of school-leaving requirements, changes in the curriculum and the introduction of legislation to improve teaching standards and school leadership. Many states are now setting competence tests for teachers and are rewarding good teaching with extra pay.

America has been shaken by studies that show the huge gap between achievement in Japanese schools and the abysmal record of ignorance, violence and vandalism in many American inner-city schools.

Education has become a big election issue, with Vice-President George Bush making improvements a priority for a future Republican administration.

Mr Bennett is an outspoken conservative who campaigned strongly for reforms similar to

those favoured by the Thatcher Government: a core curriculum, school vouchers and parental choice.

In his report he said: "The absolute level at which our improvements are taking place is unacceptably low. Too many students do not graduate from our high schools, and too many of those who do graduate have been poorly educated. Our students know too little, and their command of essential skills is too slight."

The report, however, has found that blacks and Hispanics perform better in college-entrance examinations. Standards in English, mathematics and science have risen slightly. The high rate of functional illiteracy is coming down, and "magnet schools" have shown great success in attracting and keeping inner-city pupils. The report denounced "cafeteria" high school curricula.

Following the road to a yellow-brick Babylon

From Paul Valley Baghdad

"I am Nebuchadnezzar," ran the inscription on the stele. "I am he who built the Street of the Great Procession, who built the Street of the Forgotten Son, who built the street of Nebu and paved it with shimmering stones..." Ramadan, the guide — appropriately named for the season — broke off from his translation of the Arabic version of the ancient Babylonian script. His features, dark and wrinkled as a pickled walnut, creased themselves still further into what passed for a smile. "Now they are repeating it." Repeating was Ramadan's word for restoring, though after I toured the site of this ancient civilisation I came to regard the old Iraqi's choice of word as gruesomely

appropriate. They are rebuilding Babylon. They are not making good the extant walls or lines of buildings or making the best of what remains. They are building Nebuchadnezzar's fabled city again in bright yellow brick. And in places which they consider particularly dramatic, they are painting it deep blue.

An hour's drive south-west of Baghdad lies the huge area of mounds which mark out where this legendary city stood from the rule of Sargon, founder of the Akkad dynasty in 2334 BC, to its destruction at the end of the Chaldean dynasty several centuries before the birth of Christ.

"Come," said Ramadan. "let us see the Repeating." We entered the city through a tall blue-brick gate, with horses and tigers raised in

white and yellow from the brickwork. The first courtyard had large panels set in the walls on which had been painted highly romantic accounts, in an unmistakably modern Arab hand, of scenes from old Mesopotamian life.

But inside the museum were fragments of stele from the time of Hammurabi, one of the most ancient kings, recording, in tiny, delicately chiselled script, a comprehensive code of law to establish justice throughout the four quarters of the world and protect the weak from the strong.

Outside, the Street of the Great Procession stretched before us, a long surface paved with ancient flags of baked mud. It had been fenced off. "No, no, that is old," said Ramadan dragging me away

to the Repeating.

The building work was extensive. It had cost many millions, Ramadan said proudly. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq had paid for it so Babylon could be the site for a festival of music and dance last September. There was to be another this year and work was proceeding apace to match last year's achievement.

The industry was everywhere. In the distance a dozen huge road-grading machines were flattening the antique landscape to make way for the grand new work. Bright new city walls, 20 ft high, were being erected on top of the old mud bricks which protruded only three or four feet above the ground. Huge, 40 ft high arches, were being constructed by hundreds of black work-

men. "They are Sudanese," Ramadan explained with a toothy grin. "All young Iraqi men are at the war." The Sudanese worked steadily, piling bags of cement and stacks of bricks from dumper trucks. Bulldozers shovelled earth, which a conveyor belt carried away across a labyrinth of small new walls which looked like the foundations for an estate of maisonettes for first-time buyers.

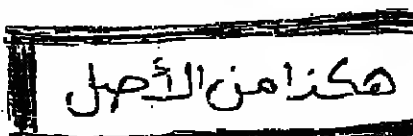
Next, said Ramadan, they would repeat the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. I asked about rebuilding that greatest folie de grandeur, the Tower of Babel, which legend has it also stood here. Ramadan was not sure about that.

In the distance, in the shelter of a row of stout palm trees, were the old earthworks. The shapes of creatures of

fable were still discernible, raised from a pattern of bricks. Elsewhere walls had cracked, sagged or toppled. In places the bricks had compacted back into solid banks of mud, like the ones from which they must, once, have been dug.

"This is old," said Ramadan, with an increasingly impatient finality. "Come and see the new temple." He hurried me from the crumbling half-shapes which soon will disappear forever beneath the sands or the bulldozer, and moved towards the Wall Disney splendour of the Repeating.

We crossed a spoil heap of unwanted earth, shovelled on one side by the workmen. It was studded with shards of Babylonian pottery. I pulled one from the soil.



Tension builds up as troop withdrawal approaches

Russians moving to block Mujahidin pressure on Kabul

Russian troops in Afghanistan are moving to prevent a serious threat to Kabul from Mujahidin guerrillas preparing to harass the Soviet withdrawal.

According to Western diplomats in Kabul, long convoys of Russian troops have moved into the Logar valley south of the city, and are deploying along the roads. A diplomat in Delhi said yesterday: "The Soviets need to keep open the Kabul to Ghazni road and to stop the Mujahidin build-up south of Kabul, which might lead to earlier pressure on the capital than they are prepared to accept."

Another diplomat reported that the Russian troops have now moved into the hills, to confront the guerrillas who have been assembling there for some months.

Mujahidin activity in Logar province has been intense recently, with the assassination of a newly elected MP in the provincial capital of Pul-i-Alam on April 16, and a rocket attack on the town from three sides the next day. Three Afghan Army posts were overrun the day after.

Elsewhere in the country, the Russian policy of pulling back from distant provinces and concentrating their troops before the withdrawal is reported to be continuing, with withdrawals from the three eastern provinces of Paktia, Nangarhar and Paktika.

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Heavy fighting is again reported around the border town of Khost.

The Russians are reported to be pulling out of Zabol province, which lies astride the continuation of the Kabul-Ghazni road to Kandahar.

In Kandahar, there will clearly be acute problems for the Government after a withdrawal. The Mujahidin are already reported to be fighting within the city and Pakistan's consulate was badly damaged in a rocket attack aimed at the TV and radio station.

Diplomats say that the ammunition, damaged vehicles, fuel drums, and pieces of prefabricated buildings, the material consistent with dismantling a security post.

On the political front, President Najibullah has been giving figures for the composition of the new Parliament after the recent, highly suspect elections.

According to the President, 48 per cent of the seats were taken by a combination of communist front organizations, including the Workers' Revolutionary Organization, the Peasants' Justice Party, and the Islamic Party.

Neither the President nor official newspapers explained how this allocation came to total more than 100 per cent.

The President indicated that the first session of Parliament would take place after Ramadan ends on May 17, which would also be after the Russian withdrawal begins.

At that time there would be elections for a new Prime Minister, and diplomats suggest that this would be the opportunity to remove Mr Sultan Ali Keshmand.

Convoys of trucks have also been observed taking supplies back north. One convoy was seen by diplomats last Friday entering the large Soviet base north of the Kabul airport.

The 60 lorries were carrying tempo of the resupply of the Afghans by the Russians continues to increase, with 12 flights into Kabul airport last Tuesday.

Six of the heavy transport planes were carrying military supplies. The cargoes were immediately reloaded into Afghan Air Force planes which left the same day.



An Afghan woman closing her eyes in contempt as she passes a Soviet checkpoint in Kabul.

Mulroney poll hopes hinge on visit to US

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Prime Minister of Canada, goes to Washington today for a two-day visit that could affect vitally the outcome of the Canadian general election, widely expected later this year.

Two key issues will dominate Mr Mulroney's talks with President Reagan and US congressional leaders: acid rain and free trade between Canada and the United States.

Both are controversial issues in Canada, though not in the US, and unless handled deftly, could turn into political minefields for the Conservative Prime Minister.

Mr Mulroney has been criticized and ridiculed for his Government's failure to persuade America to act decisively to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions from US industry that fall on Canada as acid rain. Thousands of Canadian rivers and forests have been contaminated.

Mr Mulroney is particularly vulnerable to criticism because of the vast amount of political capital that he has invested in his personal relationship with President Reagan.

His aides often speak perhaps unaware of the unfortunate pun in the context of environmental issues — about the special "chemistry" between the two leaders. If it is special, say the Prime Minister's opponents, why has it not produced more than a limited US commitment to experiments in pollution-control technology?

At a press briefing here, aides to Mr Mulroney emphasized that the absolute mini-

mum Canada wants from the Reagan Administration is a commitment to "targeted, scheduled reductions" in airborne pollution. But they conceded that they did not anticipate any breakthrough in the Washington talks.

Mr Mulroney is on firmer ground with the free-trade agreement, scheduled to take effect on January 1, 1989.

Although the deal, said to be the most extensive trade accord ever, enjoys fairly wide popular support in Canada, both opposition parties — the Liberals and the New Democrats — have vowed to fight it in the House of Commons. The required legislation is now being prepared in both countries.

Mr Mulroney and his officials will be seeking assurances that the Trade Bill now on its way through the US Congress — it was passed by the House of Representatives last week — does no harm to the Canada-US accord.

Unless the assurances are received, the free-trade issue could start to rumour against Mr Mulroney's party if President Reagan does not carry out his threat to veto the protectionist legislation.

Another potentially troublesome issue which could find its way on to the Reagan-Mulroney agenda is Canada's proposed multi-billion-dollar purchase of a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines.

One of the two contenders for the contract and favoured to be the favourite is the British-designed Trafalgar submarine.

Hong Kong critics fear 'muddle' of Chinese blueprint

From Stephen Leather and Chris Pomery, Hong Kong

The six million inhabitants of Hong Kong will be told tomorrow what life under Communist rule has in store for them.

Chinese leaders are to publish the first draft of the Basic Law, the rules and regulations which will apply to the Crown Colony when it is handed back to Peking in 1997. The weighty documents have taken three years to compile and represent the deliberation of 23 Hong Kong and 35 mainland drafting committee members.

Much of what will be in the Basic Law has already been leaked, so that it will not come as a shock to the Hong Kong Chinese. The colony's Government has already ruled that there will be no direct polls until 1991 at the earliest. It has already been decided that the 9,000-strong British Army

garrison will have pulled out of Hong Kong by 1997 and defence will be in the hands of the People's Liberation Army.

The Governor will be replaced by a Chinese chief executive, initially for five years. But there are still a lot of worrying gaps in the Basic Law.

English and Chinese will remain as the official languages, but there are no provisions yet on which will be the main tongue to be used in schools.

There is no provision in the Basic Law for the executive to be accountable to the legislature, which is causing some concern. And there is no provision for the legislature to veto or change budgets proposed by the executive.

There is already a flood of Hong Kong Chinese queuing up to emigrate to countries such as Australia, Canada and the United States.

Last year those three countries issued 36,000 resettlement visas and, according to the US Consulate, almost 100,000 are awaiting their turn to leave.

Most of those wanting to go are the colony's affluent middle class, taking with them much needed management and technical skills, and billions of dollars.

The deputy secretary general of the Basic Law drafting committee, Mr Lu Ping, has predicted that those who have already emigrated will want to return to Hong Kong after they have read it.

In an attempt to win their trust, the Chinese and Hong Kong authorities have promised a five-month consultation period, backed by a HK\$3 million (£204,500) advertising campaign, during which the

public will be asked to give their views on the draft of the Basic Law. It will then be modified before being submitted to the National People's Congress for approval in 1990.

But informed lawyers, legislators and academics in the colony say that China is cutting back the degree of independence it will allow Hong Kong after the British withdrawal.

Local observers say that Peking officials have used the constitutional exercise to fudge some of the key promises outlined in the 1984 Sino-British agreement.

Many academics highlight the difficulties of meshing capitalist Hong Kong with communist China, while others indicate Peking's reluctance to allow the territory the "high degree of autonomy" it promised back in 1984. "The

Basic Law has been very carefully designed," a prominent Hong Kong barrister claims. "It's been put together with a particular objective in mind, that ultimately the will of China will permeate throughout all aspects, if not carry the day."

Observers note that Chinese officials form a majority on the drafting committee. Proponents of democracy in Hong Kong say mainland officials have worked closely with senior Hong Kong businessmen to produce a political structure favourable to Peking.

In its agreement with Britain in 1984, China promised Hong Kong a "legislature constituted by elections".

Local sources also claim that the Hong Kong Government has acceded to Peking's desire to "converge" local political reform with the still

incomplete Basic Law.

Linking Hong Kong's common-law legal system and China's less-than-independent legal structure has caused further problems. China's legislature is required to interpret the laws that it enacts. Under Hong Kong's common-law system, only the courts can interpret the legislation.

The current draft does not list which of China's laws will apply to Hong Kong after 1997. Furthermore, Hong Kong's freedom to maintain its capitalist lifestyle is not written down anywhere in Chinese law.

Local commentators say that the slogan — "one country, two systems" — coined by Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, can now be seen as a demand for loyalty, as well as a formula for reunification.

Italy fears poisoned grapefruit

Rome (Reuters) — Italy banned sales of grapefruit and ordered the seizure of all supplies yesterday after some fruit were found to have been poisoned in a campaign apparently aimed at Israeli exports.

Tests on grapefruit from a Rome supermarket showed that some had been injected with a powerful poison. A previously unknown group claimed responsibility.

Growing pains Jakarta (Reuters) — A 7ft 7in Indonesian, thought to be the world's tallest woman, will be operated on in an attempt to prevent her growing further. She has been unable to stand since 1977.

Envoy held Sydney (AFP) — A Guatemalan diplomat who was charged with four other people over a conspiracy to import heroin worth more than £32 million was refused bail.

Oilfield blaze Sao Paulo (Reuters) — A fire in Brazil's biggest oilfield, the Campos basin, has cut oil production by 10 per cent and could burn for weeks.

Frontier fence Delhi (Reuters) — India is putting a fence along the border between Punjab and Pakistan to reduce infiltration by Sikh separatists.

School strike Madrid (AP) — A teachers' pay strike shut Spanish schools. University teachers join the stoppage today.

Riot payment Tegucigalpa (Reuters) — Honduras will pay for damage done to the US consulate during anti-American riots.

Correction Mr Ryohji Murata is Japan's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, not Deputy Foreign Minister as stated yesterday.

Bishop attacks 'anti-Catholic' Spain

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Practising Roman Catholics are discriminated against in today's Socialist-led Spain, says the newly elected secretary of the Spanish Episcopal Council, who took over the influential church post last Thursday.

In an interview broadcast last Sunday on the government-run Radio Nacional, Mgr Augustin Garcia Gasco, aged 57, who is also the auxiliary Bishop of Madrid, said: "This reminds me of what I saw in Cuba some years ago. Anyone who identifies himself as a Catholic is a second- or third-class citizen."

"I think this is what is happening in Spain," he said. "We see it all the time, and it is the case of many people in our country. For instance, in public (state-run) communications media, certain persons have found themselves on the outside because they are members of the faithful."

The bishop said he knew of "specific cases in which per-

sons are unable to occupy politically or socially important posts without declaring themselves to be non-believers or non-practising Catholics."

"This is a throwback to the past. Before, in Spain, anyone who wasn't a member of the 'old shirts' or 'blue shirts' (the fascist-rooted Falange, the only political party tolerated by the Franco regime), could not rise to any relevant position. Today, anyone who does not accept a certain ideology has a hard time," he said.

"The student who declares himself to be a Catholic before entering the university has the opportunity to study only sciences, but not liberal arts."

The bishop's broadside came at a time when the Socialist Government and the church are at odds about legislation and subsidies affecting church-run schools.

It also coincides with the beginning of a "church tax"

scheme by which the church will have to finance itself with money generated by taxpayers who voluntarily indicate on their tax returns that they wish one half of 1 per cent of their income tax to be paid to the church. This will replace funds which were formerly budgeted by the Government.

The bishop was defined by Spanish editorial writers as a political moderate when he replaced the more progressive bishop, Mgr Fernando Sebastian, who was transferred by the Vatican to the post of Archbishop Coadjutor of Grenada. Bishop Garcia Gasco claimed: "These are defects in a (democratic) process which we have initiated, and it is normal that there should be defects. When one is learning one always makes mistakes."

The bishop's attack drew surprisingly little reaction. No government spokesman replied, nor did the church hierarchy add one word. Even the Roman Catholic

daily, Ya, of Madrid refrained from commenting on Bishop Garcia Gasco's opinions. Spain's most widely read newspaper, the independent left-wing El Pais, of Madrid, however, dedicated a leading article to the outspoken clergyman, calling his comments "outlandish" and "absurd".

"This man's aberrational remarks can only be the product of his own dim-wittedness, but there is a danger that they might be interpreted as symptoms of a new policy," it said.

Recalling that the church benefits from certain tax exemptions and that the state collects and distributes the funds which maintain the church and its ministers, El Pais remarked: "It looks like citizen Garcia Gasco needs a course in Vatican diplomacy."

The liberal Madrid daily, Diario-16, said in an editorial: "He should see an eye doctor."

Separatists' border setback Eta loses £3.5 million cash

Bayonne (AP-Reuters) — A suspected member of the Basque separatist group, Eta, was arrested yesterday carrying £3.5 million worth of Spanish currency after a gun battle in which he and a French border policeman were wounded.

Police sources said that Jose-Felix Perez Alonso, apparently noticed that he and a friend were being followed and opened fire.

In the exchange Señor Perez Alonso, aged 30, and a policeman were both shot in the leg. The account was sketchy, but it appeared that Señor Perez Alonso's comrade, named as Ignacio Aguirre, somehow escaped.

The sources said that 725 million pesetas discovered in Señor Perez Alonso's possession was not first thought to have come from a ransom delivered in the Eta kidnapping of a Madrid businessman, Señor Emiliano Revilla.

Eta is still holding him.

But police later discovered that the sum was far too large to be the ransom money and believe it had to be part of the guerrilla organization's secret funds, which Señor Perez-Alonso was moving to a new hiding place.

Spanish Interior Ministry sources in Madrid said they could not rule out that the money seized in Bayonne was the ransom money.

Spanish press reports said Eta asked a £3.75 million ransom for Señor Revilla's release. His relatives have consistently denied paying any money.

The sources in Bayonne said Señor Perez-Alonso was suspected of being the right-hand man of "Artapalo" Mugica-Garmendia, the leader of Eta's militant wing.

But in Madrid, the Interior Ministry sources said neither Señor Perez-Alonso nor a suspected guerrilla who es-

caped in yesterday's shoot-out were Eta leaders.

French police sources said Señor Perez-Alonso opened fire when border police in Bayonne tried to take him in for questioning after monitoring his movements for several days.

He shot the policeman in the leg and wounded himself in the foot.

The sources in Madrid said Señor Perez-Alonso was wanted in Spain in connection with a sub-machine-gun attack on a bar, in which one person was wounded, and the bombing of several French car showrooms in the Spanish Basque country.

Spanish police had lost track of Señor Perez-Alonso after he escaped to France five years ago.

Eta (Homeland and Liberty) has been fighting for independence for the Basque region, made up of three provinces in north-western Spain.

Optimistic opposition unites to fight Pinochet in plebiscite

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

President Pinochet of Chile has said he will be the ruling junta's sole candidate in a plebiscite to confirm his position, expected later this year.

General Pinochet, who has ruled Chile for 15 years, announced his candidacy in an improvised speech in the coastal city of Vina del Mar last Friday. But, in coverage of the speech by the Government-controlled national television channel and the Government newspaper La Nacion, his comments were censored.

General Pinochet told 4,000 women volunteers that the military's Constitution provided for a plebiscite to see whether Chileans want the current military government to continue.

"That and nothing else is the question: if you want President Pinochet to carry on or not."

Technically, the Constitution calls for the four-man military junta to nominate a candidate for President of Chile, who will then be accepted or rejected in a plebiscite expected toward the end of this year.

Chile's opposition leaders are bursting with public optimism. Fourteen normally fractious parties have united behind the strategy of voting "no": the only party likely to support General Pinochet has just split; and even the junta has seemed divided over who to nominate as the sole candidate.

But, privately, some opposition leaders are concerned that Chile

Right now, the general is defeated and can't win. He's doing badly

may be headed for a bloody "self-coup", in which General Pinochet could decide to suspend the plebiscite or continue as president regardless of the results.

The entire opposition, except Chile's influential Communist Party, has united behind the "Command for the No Vote" and the "Party for Democracy" to organize door-to-door campaigns to convince people to register now and vote no when the plebiscite is called.

They are also struggling to recruit and train the 200,000 volunteers

they need to scrutinize during the vote. And four different groups of computer experts are developing a system for publishing the final count before official figures are available, to prevent meddling.

Morale among campaign organizers is as high now as it was low six months ago when they started.

"The Government is spending \$45 (£24) for every dollar we spend on our campaign," said Señor General Arriagada, the political scientist who heads the Command for the No Vote.

"Nevertheless, our campaign is on the rise and the Government's is doing very badly. Right now, Pinochet can't win the plebiscite. He's defeated today, which doesn't mean he doesn't have resources, but does mean he's doing badly."

"There are three kinds of fraud which could win the plebiscite for General Pinochet," said Señor Arriagada. "The first is to have few people registered to vote, with the majority of those registered being his supporters. That's failed. The second is environmental, especially control of information available to the public. That's our main battle now. The third could take place on the day itself."

An unexpected increase in registration has fed opposition optimism. It topped five million in March and many now believe a record number of Chile's potential eight million voters will be registered before the plebiscite is called.

Polling results by the pollsters Diagon, among others, indicate that around 18 per cent would vote "yes" to General Pinochet and 45 per cent "no", directly contradicting those of Gallup Chile, which reports that 39 per cent would favour the general and only 26 per cent oppose him.

"The problem is that when you have an electoral event, you usually know when the election will be, who the candidate will be and who the candidate's opponent(s) will be," Señor Hugo Rivas of Diagon explained, diplomatically. "But right now in Chile we don't know any of these things."

Señor Augusto Nosedá, a former Gallup director, told a marketing magazine that he and two others quit Gallup because of its "lack of professionalism".

Comments by two junta members, Air Force General Fernando

Matthei and Admiral José Merino, have convinced many opposition strategists that the junta is not united behind General Pinochet. But both have publicly differed with General Pinochet in the past, only to swallow their comments after a particularly aggressive sally by the general, their commander-in-chief.

The opposition is also delighted by a serious split within the newly formed National Renovation (RN) Party, which was to have been General Pinochet's main civilian support. An uneasy alliance between its two main factions, the National Work Front (FNT) and the Independent Union of Democrats (UDI) erupted when they held their first internal elections this month.

The key issue in the split seems to have been the UDI's insistence that National Renovation immediately endorse and campaign for General Pinochet, rather than a civilian candidate.

During the no-holds-barred inter-faction battle, Chileans were treated to the sight of supporters of the military regime accusing each other of kidnappings, beatings,

lying, bribery, influence-peddling and improper use of state resources, particularly those belonging to municipalities.

UDI supporters picketed party polling stations with signs proclaiming fraud and demanding democratic elections, often using slogans borrowed from the military regime's democratic opposition. They are now predicting that

They're already giving away houses so people will vote for him

30,000 of their number will leave National Renovation.

There seems little doubt that if Chile were facing a democratic run plebiscite the opposition would have a winning edge. But while several new television programmes have interviewed two or three opposition leaders, access to television, which is where 80 per cent of Chileans get their information, is still severely limited.

And fear of reprisals is still an active component of most Chileans' thinking when they consider the plebiscite. Just an hour from

Santiago, people in Putaendo village have registered to vote for fear of losing important social service benefits.

"They're already giving away houses and other 'gifts', so people will vote for Pinochet," one housewife told me. "And they say there are going to be secret cameras in polling booths, to make sure people vote the way they've promised."

This month, one region's military governor threatened to shoot "no" vote organizers after the voting.

The Command for the No Vote plan to thwart vote manipulation by announcing their own tally during the official count could easily be stymied by the Government simply assuming control of all radio and television broadcasts, a regular occurrence in Chile since the coup.

And General Pinochet May have one other card up his sleeve.

Father Renato Hevia, a Jesuit priest and editor of the Catholic monthly, Mensaje, said: "If Pinochet really believes he could lose the plebiscite, there simply won't be one."

Arson not ruled out as cause of Army depot fire

Arson had not been ruled out as the cause of the fire which swept through the Army storage depot at Donnington, Shropshire, yesterday, Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said in reply to questions in the Commons.

He resisted demands from Labour MPs to hold a public inquiry into the fire, the second at the depot in five years. He said that the normal procedure would be followed and that there would be an Army board of inquiry.

Mr Freeman said that yesterday, at about 11.30 am, a small, smouldering fire was discovered in one of the six larger buildings on the site, one of the Army's two main storage depots.

The building was evacuated and the fire extinguished. The Ministry of Defence police were called to investigate and a full inspection of the building the workforce was readmitted at 1.30 pm.

At 3.30 pm, while ministry police were still present and taking statements, a second fire started in the upper part of a corner of the building and on the opposite side. It took hold quickly.

"There was some asbestos element in the smoke because of the asbestos content of the roofing material. This was dispersed some five miles to the west of the fire. Wrexham District Council staff are dealing with this and I am advised that the danger to the public is slight."

The West Mercia police, assisted by the Ministry of Defence, were carrying out their normal inquiries into the circumstances of the fire.

The Army authorities would also be convening a board of inquiry to examine the cause and to consider what action was needed. The board would include an outside expert from the fire services inspectorate.

Mr Bruce Grocott (The Wrexham, Lab) said that for a fire of this magnitude to happen once in one's own constituency was disastrous. But for it to happen twice within five years was "quite without precedent and quite unbelievable".

The fire was of great concern to 4,000 of his constituents working in the MoD buildings and for everyone living in the surrounding area.

Could the minister say more about the dangers associated with the dust and debris that had spread over much of the northern part of Telford?

DEFENCE

Could he confirm that many of the safety recommendations made by the MoD inquiry after the first fire, particularly on the construction of fire barriers in the building, had not been carried out?

Many would find unacceptable the excuse given by one of the minister's officials, that safety measures had not been carried out "because there have been factors against us, such as time and money".

The minister should announce a public inquiry into the fire. "An internal MoD inquiry would be unacceptable to the House and to my constituents."

The public inquiry should address why the remedial work was not carried out after the first fire, the cause of the fire, particularly with the same factors at work as was the case with the previous fire, what were the asbestos hazards in the buildings for people working in them, and for people living in the area; what remedial work was necessary, particularly regarding removal of asbestos, to make the depot safe.

The asbestos hazards had been of concern to trade unions at the depot for many years. Would the minister undertake to implement immediately and fully any safety recommendations made by the inquiry? Would he also ensure that full compensation was paid to anyone suffering direct or indirect consequences from the fire?

Would the local authorities be fully funded for the costs involved?

His constituents were entitled to action — now.

Mr Freeman said safety, and danger to the public, were mainly for Wrexham District Council, but he had been advised that "there was no significant danger to the public".

The 1983 report had made 12 recommendations and all of them were agreed. He would make a summary of those recommendations available to MPs.

A summary had been given to trade unions at the time. On the call for an independent public inquiry, "we shall follow the procedures followed by all governments in setting up a military inquiry. It will include independent experts."

The conclusions would be communicated promptly, fairly and accurately to the House and to everyone concerned and affected.

Those who had been adversely affected and could show that their financial losses were

directly due to the incident, would have their claims considered.

He would draw to the attention of the military inquiry the points Mr Grocott wanted considered.

Mr John Biffen (North Shropshire, C) asked whether the board of inquiry would be able to consider whether there was any indication that arson might have been the cause.

Mr Freeman said that he could give the assurance sought by Mr Biffen. "We have certainly not ruled out arson as the cause of the latest fire."

There were two separate instances yesterday and the investigations of the West Mercia police as well as the Ministry of Defence police would be concentrating specifically on the point mentioned.

Mr James Wallace, SLD spokesman on defence, wanted to know how many of the recommendations of the report into the first fire had not been implemented and why.

Mr Freeman said all the recommendations were being accepted in full. Certain short-term measures had been implemented immediately.

It was as a result of one of these measures — moving strategic items into two separate locations — that the latest fire had not occurred in the operational readiness of the Army.

An immediate start had also been made on the longer-term measures.

The building destroyed in 1983 had been replaced by a modern building. The other buildings took time to replace and the building where the latest fire had taken place was the next one due to be cleared of all stock and modernized.

Mr Donald Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on defence, said that the minister had not been as frank as he should have been. How many of the 1983 recommendations had been carried out and how many had not?

The minister should reconsider having a public inquiry because this involved not only the Ministry of Defence and its employees but also people living in the area.

Mr Freeman said that he rebuffed the charge that he had not been frank with the House. The 1983 report had made 12 recommendations and all had been accepted.

Regarding a public inquiry, he found the implications of Mr Davies's comments unacceptable — that the Army somehow had something to hide and did not wish to consult the various bodies which he was sure had much to offer.



Is there still room in the Conservative Party for the nobility, the gentry and the middle classes now that the so-called working class is supporting the party and the Government? The question from Mr John Stoker (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) (above) brought Prime Minister's question time in

the Commons to a halt in laughter from all sides. Mr Stoker: Did she happen to read the remarkable speech the other day by Mr Norman Tebbit, in which he praises the party which the so-called working class now play in supporting the Government — and we all agree on that. For avoidance of doubt,

will she confirm that there is still room in the Government for the nobility, the gentry and the middle classes? Mrs Thatcher: I think Mr Stoker is just about the only person who could ask that and I wish to goodness we had more like him.

Thatcher refuses to be drawn on possible benefit changes

PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister declined to be drawn at question time on whether the Government proposed to make changes in the new social security benefit arrangements.

She was pressed by Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, on behalf of the "whole humane instinct of the people in this country" to amend the social security regulations and restore housing benefit to help with rates.

Mrs Thatcher said that the system had been badly in need of reform and that the substantial structure would, of course, stay.

Mr Kinnock began the exchange by saying the two weeks ago he had asked if she would amend the social security regulations to restore housing benefit to help with rates. She had then replied: "No, sir."

Mr Kinnock asked her the same question. Did she give the same answer?

Mrs Thatcher: We are spending far more on housing benefit than ever was the case during the life of the last Labour Government. We have re-

formed the fundamental structure.

Mr Kinnock: Why is the Prime Minister unable to answer the question? She knows she has been wrong. She knows she has done wrong. Why does she stand on her own dignity instead of doing what she can to help others to maintain their dignity?

Mrs Thatcher: We do not stand on dignity. We provide more resources, more cash because the economy run by this Government has enabled us to provide more resources for housing benefit, more for social security reform, more for the health service.

Mr Kinnock: Can I ask the Prime Minister for a considered answer? Will she now amend the housing benefit and social security regulations?

Mrs Thatcher: The system was badly in need of reform. The substantial structure will, of course, stay (loud Labour laughter and cheers).

Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton, Lab) asked the Prime Minister to consider the case of a "lollipop lady" in his constituency, who lives in a maisonette with her husband, young daughter and two teenage sons and would be faced with an extra bill for poll tax of £1,138 a year.

Mr Kinnock: I am sure Mrs Thatcher will do her best to help the poor. But if she does not, we will have to put up with her. I am sure she will do her best to help the poor. But if she does not, we will have to put up with her.

Left-wing local authorities put up rent and rates and the taxpayer cannot afford it. Perhaps that lollipop lady and many others will remember that the amount spent on social security, on health in particular, and pensions, has vastly increased beyond anything contemplated eight years ago.

Mr Ray Powell (Ogmore, Lab) asked whether the fact that Mrs Thatcher was not prepared to reply to Mr Kinnock meant that he and other Labour MPs had continually badgered the Government into realizing that changes were needed in social security.

Will she answer my straightforward question, as she failed to answer Mr Kinnock? Are there to be any changes to housing benefits in the new proposals for social security?

Labour MPs: Say yes.

Mrs Thatcher: I answer as I answered Mr Kinnock, that this year £46 billion is being spent on social security, far in excess of anything contemplated seven or eight years ago, and there are more pensioners and the eligibility of disabled people has been increased.

Mr Rhodri Morgan (Cardiff West, Lab) asked for Mrs Thatcher's assistance in advising a woman of 76 in his constituency who, as a result of social security changes, would receive in housing benefit, £11 less a week.

Mrs Thatcher: It is not possible to deal with individual cases. Whenever I try to do so, I find that there are material things which have not been fully dealt with in the question.

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Brittan criticizes ferry 'blockade'

The worsening F&O dispute was raised at Prime Minister's questions and during points of order.

It was unacceptable that picketing should turn to a blockade, Mr Leon Brittan (Richmond, Yorks, C) told the Prime Minister during question time. Mrs Thatcher agreed that the only right to picket was a right to do so peacefully.

Mr Brittan added: Will she make clear that those who want to go to work have a right to do so and will be protected from violence and intimidation.

Mrs Thatcher: Any violence is a criminal matter and people who resort to it must expect to be dealt with accordingly.

Later, Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab), raising a point of order, asked if the

Speaker had had any indication that the issue of the dispute was to be raised in a statement to the House on Wednesday.

"It could be that the lives of many citizens of this country will be put at risk because they will be sailing in ships which are not properly manned and which are not covered by agreed trade union agreements. That could lead to a very difficult situation."

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, said that he had received no request for such a statement, but what had been said would have been heard by the Government front bench.

Mr David Shaw (Dover, C) said that if there was to be a statement, he hoped that it would not be obstructed by false statements from the Opposition front bench.

Royal Ascot first in priorities list

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

If the House of Lords votes against the flat-rate poll tax one thing is certain: Lord "Bertie" Denham, the Government Chief Whip, will do his best to make sure that it is not at 4pm on a Monday in the third week of June.

Such timing could be disastrous from his viewpoint, on four counts: Monday is never an easy day to entice peers from distant haunts; the "City" vote can not be relied on before 5pm; and during that week he must compete with both Royal Ascot and the West Indians' tour.

Racing and cricket apart, Conservative peers may also be enticed away by other diversions in June and July, such as Wimbledon, Glorious Goodwood and, to a lesser extent nowadays, Henley.

In addition, crucial votes early in the afternoon are nerve-racking, unpredictable affairs for the Conservative whips when there are royal garden parties up the road.

That the fate of the flagship of the Government's legislation, the poll tax, may lie with the time and date of a particular vote is an accepted irony in the upper chamber.

It is an issue that is normally regulated "through the usual channels". In layman's terms, that means the whips of all parties get together and nego-



Lord Denham: All a matter of careful timing

tiate when the most important amendments come up and how long the House will sit.

There is always a slight air of tension among the whips when an important vote takes place after 7.30pm, the dinner hour, when many peers from all benches start to drift away. In a predominantly elderly and unpaired House, late sittings are unpopular and late divisions rarely muster more than 100 votes.

Thursday evenings are another vulnerable time, particularly for Opposition whips, because peers living out of town like to get home at a reasonable time. Wednesdays, on the other hand, are normally devoted to debates instead of revising important Bills and votes are rare.

Security pledge for widows

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government announced concessions during the report stage of the Housing (Scotland) Bill to reassure widows and widowers that they cannot be evicted if their spouse dies.

Lord Sanderson of Bowden, Minister of State, Scottish Office, announced that the Government will be bringing forward a series of amendments at the Bill's report stage after consultation on the rights of future housing association tenants in Scotland.

He said these will include providing tenants under assured tenancies with a written statement setting out the conditions of the tenancy.

He added that that would provide a framework for all discussions about rights and ensure that the both the landlord and tenant were clear about their respective responsibilities.

"We do not wish to deprive

widows or widowers of peace of mind about their housing."

"This is a humanitarian question rather than a matter of the strict logic of the landlord-tenant relationship."

The Bill did not affect the right of existing housing association tenants at all, but only those who become tenants after it takes effect.

He said that the Government had already made concessions in the Bill so that existing tenants who moved from one home to another owned by the same housing association could keep their existing tenancy rights.

It had already made changes to the Bill so that the security of tenure provisions for assured tenancies were similar to those for existing housing association tenants.

Ridley makes creative accounting concessions

The following report of the Commons debate on the report stage of the Local Government Finance Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced important concessions to local authorities in a revision of measures introduced on March 9 in his war against barter deals and creative accounting.

The announcement during the debate was welcomed by Dr John Cunningham, Opposition spokesman on the environment. He said that it was a "massive climbdown". The Bill was later read the third time by 322 votes to 259 — Government majority, 63.

Mr Ridley said that his intention had been merely to bring barter deals within the local authority capital control system. Not to stop them. The deals had been used by local authorities, which had kept them off their books, as a means of avoiding Government capital controls.

His concessions were to deal with the many schemes already in train on March 9, and he would consider additional capital allocations following the use of additional capital where, for example, sites had already been acquired or tenants rehoused.

His second criterion for additional capital allocation would be the extent to which the scheme was designed neither to increase the stock of physical assets over which the local authority had effective control nor to raise money on the security of the authority's assets.

nor to raise money on the security of the authority's assets.

Mr Ridley, moving the first of a group of Government amendments, said that these measures, which were merely a stop-gap until there was time to consult, did not prevent barter or lease and leaseback from being used, but they did bring such transactions within the spending limits laid down.

Since his announcement on March 9, it had become clear that many schemes were in the pipeline where commitments had been made or expenditure had been incurred.

He had "two major relaxations" to announce.

First, on schemes in the pipeline. In his statement on March 9 he had said that he would consider issuing additional capital allocations where he was satisfied that the agreements were not entered into for the purpose of evading capital expenditure.

He would use two main criteria to deal with cases in the pipeline. First, the extent to which expenditure had already been incurred or commitments entered into. For example, sites might have been acquired or tenants rehoused.

Second, the extent to which the scheme was designed neither to increase the stock of physical assets over which the local authority had effective control nor to raise money on the security of the authority's assets.

COUNCILS

If local authorities had schemes which were in the pipeline on March 9 and if both the criteria he had just outlined were met, they should apply to his department for extra capital allocations.

The second big relaxation applied to barter deals only. The representations he had received since March 9 had persuaded him that the existing legislation and regulations were a particular constraint on in-and-out transactions — schemes where a principal asset was acquired so that another asset, or possibly the same asset, could be disposed of and where the disposal could happen only if the acquisition happened first.

They already had a limited back-to-back scheme under which additional allocations could be given to facilitate the acquisition of assets and their sale, such as might happen when a council used its powers to facilitate private sector developments.

He proposed to replace this scheme by an in-and-out scheme and additional allocations would be available for three classes of transaction. First, the exchange of land for land. Second, the replacement of existing assets held by the local authority by assets to be used for broadly similar purposes.

Third, schemes in which the

main intention was to facilitate investment by the private sector in assets which, when the scheme was completed, would be owned, operated and controlled by the private sector.

Dr Cunningham said that this important statement was a massive climbdown from the one on March 9 which Mr Ridley had made, on his own admission, when he had not known what was going on.

"We have seen just how ill considered and wrong-headed that statement was." It had been a political statement, not motivated by any commonsense evidence or investigation of the circumstances.

Earlier, Dr Cunningham moved an Opposition amendment to delete from the Bill the section which, he said, would allow the Secretary of State for the Environment retrospectively to control, cap or reduce the poll tax of every local authority in England. It was rejected by 314 votes to 219 — Government majority, 95.

Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State, Scottish Office, moved the first of a series of amendments designed to bring the poll tax provisions in Scotland into line with the equivalent provisions in England. It was carried by 329 votes to 230 — Government majority, 99.

Moving third reading, Mr Ridley said that the principle of the Bill had been challenged repeatedly, but no superior alternative had been found. This Bill would usher in a new

Education 'cannot be centralized'

There is no way in which the Department of Education and Science could administer the entire educational system, Mrs Thatcher said during question time.

Mr Hal Miller (Bromsgrove, C) asked: Now that the Local Government Finance Bill, the flagship of our programme (laughter) — has been navigated safely through this House; now that we have the national curriculum, national tests and funding centrally of schools which opt out of the system; will she look again at the possibility of central financing of education?

Mrs Thatcher: That would mean wholly central control of education and there is no way in which the Department of Education and Science could administer the entire educational system. No way at all.

She did not think that it could or should happen, she added.

Mr David Steel, joint leader of the SLD, said that as the Speaker had certified that the Local Government Finance Bill was not a money Bill, the Lords would be entirely within their rights to improve the Bill.

The more the public understood it, the more unacceptable it had become and the Lords would be doing a public service in seeing the whole Bill back to the Commons.

Worry over Ireland speech

Mrs Thatcher is seeking reassurance that the weekend speech by Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, does not mean that the Irish Government is backing away from its responsibilities, she said at question time, amid Labour protests.

Mr Michael Mates (East Hampshire, C) is it not unhelpful for the Irish Prime Minister to make such a savage attack on British Government policies as he did at the weekend. It was irresponsible in particular to have advocated a unitary state in Ireland when his own Government so recently put their names to a document forswearing that until a majority there wanted it to happen.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I agree with him. The highest priority must be the defeat of terrorism. We shall continue to press for that and to seek reassurance from the Irish Government that that speech does not mean that they are backing away from their responsibilities.

US 'army of occupation'

American forces in Britain were described as "an army of occupation" by Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab) during defence questions. He said that it was time for these forces to leave.

Mr Ian Stewart, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that there were usually about 30,000 United States Service personnel in the UK. The Government made available 66 bases and facilities for US forces.

Mr Corbyn said that a CND publication put the total number of bases at 137, but that organization tended to be misleading and inaccurate and it sounded as if this latest example was no exception.

Trident costs 'are lower'

There has been a reduction of £376 million in the latest estimate of the cost of the Trident nuclear submarine system, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, said during questions.

Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) said that there was a widespread suspicion that the Government was concealing the true cost of the system and many people believed that it was now running at £1,000 million, the equivalent of £33,000 a day for the next 1,000 years.

Hopes for more nurses

The pay award to nurses meant that more could be recruited where there were shortages in areas such as psychiatric units and intensive care, Mrs Thatcher told MPs at question time.

Poll tax Bill

The Local Government Finance Bill, the measure for introducing the community charge, was given its formal first reading in the House of Lords.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions; Scotland. Debate on Opposition motion on housing benefit changes. Licensing Bill, Lords amendments. British Railways (No 2) Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Debates on public health and on the BBC.

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Heavenly twins in the ascendant

Long-haul jets with two engines could be a breakthrough for airlines and their passengers. But are they safe? Brian James joined a pioneering flight

Things are not as once they were for magnificent men in flying machines: Lindbergh never had to choose between quiche and lasagne after take-off, and Alcock and Brown were never likely to squabble over the running order for 15 in-flight movies. All these comforts and more were available to three pilots who have just given flying its newest "longest" and "fastest" records, and for the handful of us who were along to witness the deed.

The Boeing 767-200 ER (Extended Range) touching down on the tarmac of Mauritius had been airborne for 16 hours, 27 minutes, 25 seconds non-stop. No loaded commercial aircraft had been held longer aloft or carried a greater distance (in fact 8,726.83 miles) by a mere two engines.

We had left Halifax, Nova Scotia, two oceans, three meals, three continents, several time zones, seven of the available 15 films and two seas earlier, a committee of the Governor-General, Prime Minister and entire Cabinet were waiting with flowers, champagne and speeches.

The aircraft was then handed over to Air Mauritius. With its twin, which had made a more leisurely crossing a day earlier, this small airline now owns the two most modern developments of this marvellous... and the record: a welcome distinction for an island known previously in the annals of flight only for having done in the Dodo.

The serious point to this record flight was to reach a little higher an international battle for new aircraft sales forecast at \$340 billion between now and 2005, and to increase the pressure on aviation's regulatory bodies to narrow safety margins that have protected passengers since the Second World War.

In 1946 it was declared unsafe to cross vast stretches of water or uninhabited land on two engines; rules forbade aircraft from being more than 60 minutes flying time from a suitable emergency airfield. In 1985 that was stretched to 120 minutes (at single-engine speeds). Boeing, not with the unanimous support of its rivals, wants even more freedom: by the end of this year the limit may be 180 minutes, opening up virtually all of the planet to frequent and direct flights - to the convenience of passengers and the commercial delights of airlines.

After departure from Halifax, loud with jockey shouts to the refuelling crew - "Hey fella, shake the drips out that

hose, willya?" - there was 16 hours and 27 minutes to hear the case for two-engine freedom of the skies. Out over the north Atlantic, where icebergs gleamed below, Colonel Milt Brown, former USAF pilot, air-crash inspector and now the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale observer charged with adjudicating this attempt, said: "Now all we have to do is touch down Mauritius softly enough so that no one dies within 48 hours as a result of the landing."

I begged his pardon. This curtness rule, said the colonel, dates back to the Wright brothers, when plane-makers made mad claims for their machines. "A guy would go off in a plane until he ran out of fuel. Crash on a hill and kill himself. Yet still the maker'd claim an endurance record!" So making a survivable landing was built into the rules.

Half way across the Atlantic 40 years ago this was the Point of No Return. "You had an engine conk then," said Captain Ed Hepper, "and you'd get busy. Yelling up the nearest airfield, wondering if the weather would hold. Doing fuel sums."

"Now I'd just do this." He punched away at a computer pad like a man idly dialling long distance. "See. The read-out tells us drop down from 31,000ft to 26,100ft. That'll be the most fuel-efficient height, taking into account wind and drift. That one engine'll get us into London in two hours eight minutes. A shade over the regulation, so the computer sends us to Shannon instead. And unless I came on the speakers to say we were dropping in on Ireland, you in the back would never know we were an engine short."

The flow of statistics from the Boeing boffins on board kept us occupied to Paris and beyond. No aircraft gets approval for extended-range operations (Erops) until it can demonstrate reliability over

250,000 engine hours. The chance of an engine shut-down is one in 100 million per flying hour; of Boeing's 36,951 Erops operations thus far 99.93 per cent reached their destination without diversion. Of the 12 "events" (airline-speak for anything from a blown tyre to a crash into a mountain) involving 767s on an Erops trip, none has involved engine shut-down.

We were above Crete when someone raised the counter-argument, quoting a Massachusetts Institute of Technology report suggesting that statistical evidence for a 180-minute limit was insufficient, under-estimating by up to 20 per cent the effect of bad weather or possible headwinds.

These are the sort of arguments used by men like Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, El-Al and TWA regularly use twin-engine 767s to cross the Atlantic: next Sunday, two British airlines, Air Europe and Monarch, begin twin-jet flights to the United States. BA has refused to do so, or commit itself to this aircraft as the replacement for its trijet fleet... an order worth billions for which Airbus and McDonnell-Douglas are also competing.

We had been in the air for 10-plus hours and the Nile was a gleaming line in the darkness when Myron Anton, marketing director of Boeing, put his pitch: "This record flight will be a clear demonstration of a two-engine aircraft's range. It can already match the longest-range 747s now in service, and with a slightly superior reliability. This has implications for airline profits, and for passengers' convenience."

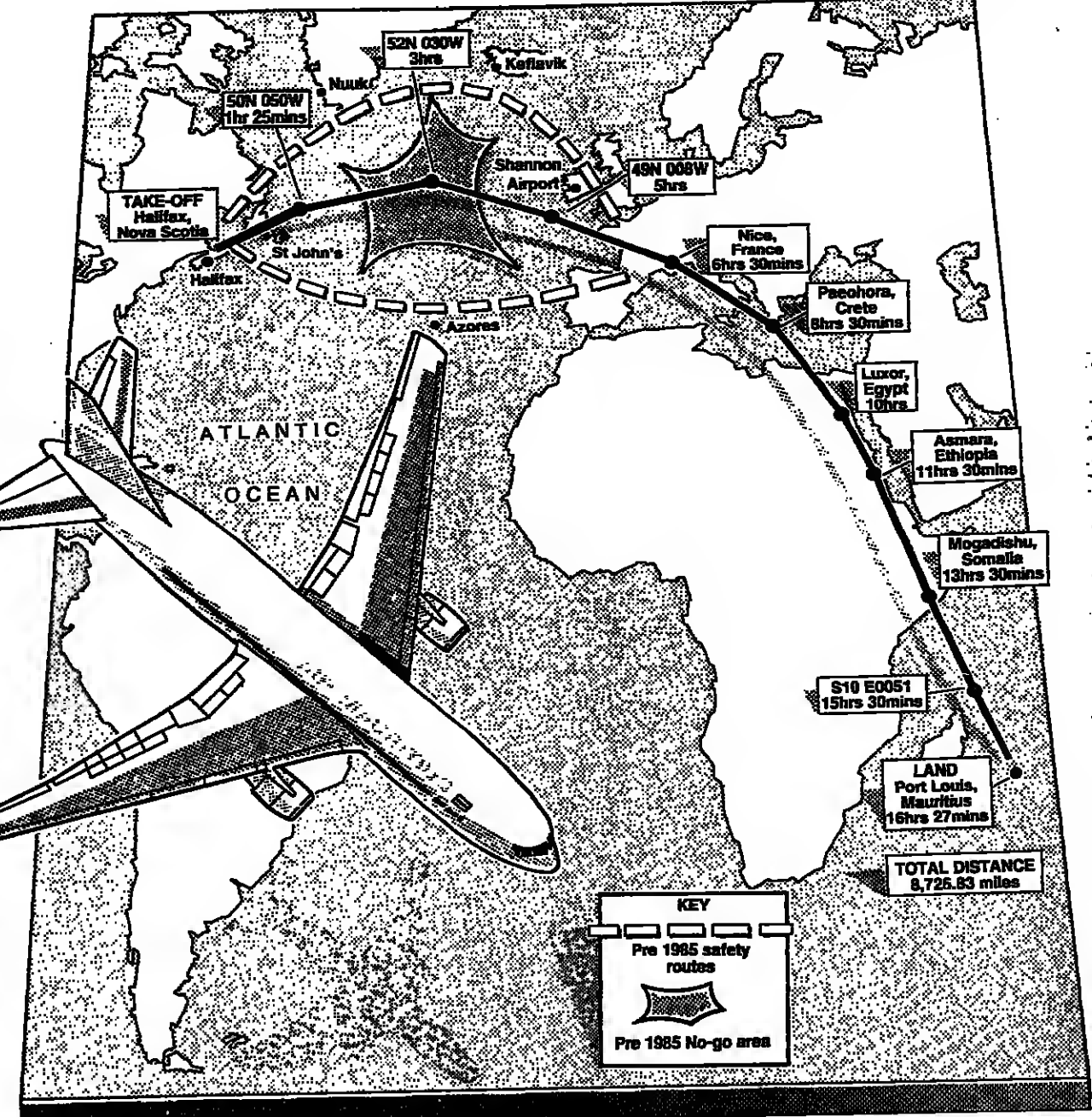
Meaning? That with only 200 seats to sell instead of the jumbo's 400-plus, it would be possible for daily flights between many points now poorly served; links between, say, Manchester to most American airports would cut three hours from journeys and ease Heathrow congestion.

Ethiopia slid below and with about 10 seats apiece our tiny party was sprawled. But would one-seat-apiece passengers really want to fly 14 or 16 hours? "If it means sleep, not being woken to spend an hour in a transit lounge in, say, Bahrain at 3am, they will."

BA's argument is that no matter what the economic case, far too many have ever failed to make it across an ocean there was a strong risk of a passenger rush to book on another airline's "good ol' jumbo".

The reality of air safety was, said Anton, that in most disasters - bombs, collisions, pilot-failure or unexplained disappearance - lives would not be saved by having four engines, nor 40. "Every great airplane model has survived a period of trauma." This 767 would, too. He spoke with the firm belief of a man about to deliver an order of two planes worth \$122 million, with another 284 sold, and a further 800 to sell.

But that is just business. There was still the flying. The 767-200 was put down gently enough at Mauritius to satisfy Col Brown all would survive the next 48 hours. We had proved it could be done: the argument whether it is worth doing will continue. Yet, looking out to the sweltering dignitaries, we knew perhaps the truest part of Lindbergh's feeling the day he made his mark - an one engine.



The route to a record: wider official safety margins that could be brought in at the end of this year, increasing the distance from emergency landing at which two-engine aircraft can fly, would bring great advantages of economy. It would be possible to mount daily flights between many points now poorly served, cutting congestion at main international airports

Worry over Ireland speech

Mrs Thatcher is seeking assurance that the weekend speech by Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, does not mean that the Irish Government is backing away from its responsibilities, she said at a question time.

US 'army of occupation'

American forces in Britain were described as "an army of occupation" by Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Stirling North, Lab) during defence questions. He said that it was time for these forces to leave.

Trident costs 'are lower'

There has been a reduction of £570 million in the latest estimate of the cost of the Trident nuclear submarine system, Mr George Young, Secretary of State for Defence, said during questions.

Hopes for more nurses

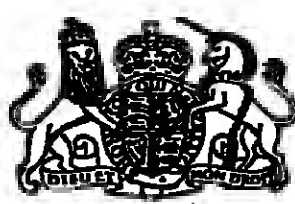
The new order to nurses that they could be recruited from more areas will help to fill gaps in such areas as mental hospitals and maternity wards, Mrs Thatcher said in a speech on June.

Poll tax Bill

The Local Government Finance Bill, the measure which will introduce the poll tax, is expected to be introduced in the House of Commons on Monday.

Parliament today

Commons: 10.30 Questions on the Environment; 11.00 Debate on the Environment; 11.30 Questions on the Environment; 12.00 Questions on the Environment; 12.30 Questions on the Environment; 1.00 Questions on the Environment; 1.30 Questions on the Environment; 2.00 Questions on the Environment; 2.30 Questions on the Environment; 3.00 Questions on the Environment; 3.30 Questions on the Environment; 4.00 Questions on the Environment; 4.30 Questions on the Environment; 5.00 Questions on the Environment; 5.30 Questions on the Environment; 6.00 Questions on the Environment; 6.30 Questions on the Environment; 7.00 Questions on the Environment; 7.30 Questions on the Environment; 8.00 Questions on the Environment; 8.30 Questions on the Environment; 9.00 Questions on the Environment; 9.30 Questions on the Environment; 10.00 Questions on the Environment; 10.30 Questions on the Environment; 11.00 Questions on the Environment; 11.30 Questions on the Environment; 12.00 Questions on the Environment; 12.30 Questions on the Environment; 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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 26: The Princess Royal visited Shropshire today and was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Shropshire (Mr John Dugdale).

Her Royal Highness subsequently opened Bishop's Castle Public Hall and was received by the Mayor of Bishop's Castle (Councillor W. Jarvis).

The Princess Royal afterwards opened and toured the new extended factory of Farns (Chairman Mr M. Cheshire), at Bishop's Castle.

In the afternoon Her Royal Highness opened the new Centre for Gymnastics, Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Lilleshall, and was received by the President, British Amateur Gymnastics Association (Mr F. Edmunds).

The Princess Royal later opened the Old Ben Homes, Lilleshall, and was received by the President, Newsyours' Benevolent Trust and Chief Executive of the *Evening Standard* (Mr B. Hardy).

Her Royal Highness, attended by the Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke, travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Evening Theatre Association, and Captain Mark Phillips, attended a Gala Evening at the Pump Room, Cheltenham and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire (Colonel Martin Gibbs).

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 26: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, The London Scottish, this evening opened the new Regimental Headquarters in Horseferry Road, SW1.

Mrs Patrick Campbell-Preston, Sir Martin Gilliat, and Captain Giles Bassett were in attendance.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy has succeeded Mrs Patrick Campbell-

Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 26: The Prince of Wales this afternoon at St James's Palace received the Lord St John of Fawley.

His Royal Highness, Patron, English Chamber Orchestra and Music Society, this evening attended a Gala Performance Given by the English Chamber Orchestra in aid of the Society at the Barbican Centre, London EC2.

Major Christopher Lavender was in attendance.
The Princess of Wales this morning opened the new Day Centre at St. Helena's Hospice, Myland Hall, Barncoft Close, Colchester, Essex.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited the homes of the Essex Voluntary Association for the Blind at 19-21, The Esplanade, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

The Princess of Wales, attended by Viscountess Campden and Commander Richard Aylard, RN, travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 26: The Duke of Gloucester, President, National Association of Boys' Clubs, today visited Boys' Clubs in Warwickshire.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 26: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, this evening dined with the President and Members of the Provincial Grand Masters' Forum at The House of Lords, London SW1.

Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron of Age Concern England, today opened a new Day Centre at Farncombe, Surrey.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

Viscountess Quenington gave birth to a daughter in New York on Thursday, April 21.

Memorial service

Lieutenant-Colonel Lennox Livingstone-Learnmonth a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lieutenant-Colonel Lennox Livingstone-Learnmonth was held yesterday at St Lawrence Jewry, near Guildhall, The Rev David Burgess officiated.

Baron van Moyland, son-in-law, read the lesson and Mr John Livingstone-Learnmonth, son, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland. The Rev Martin Culverwell led the prayers and Brigadier Lyndon Bolton gave an address. Among others present were:

Mrs Livingstone-Learnmonth (widow), Baroness van Moyland (daughter), Mr and Mrs A. W. Horton and Mr and Mrs M. L. Broad (sons-in-law and daughters), Mrs John Victoria van Moyland (daughter-in-law), Mrs Jane van Moyland, Miss Victoria van Moyland and Miss Nicola van Moyland (granddaughters), Mr and Mrs C. C. Cumberland (stepson and daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs J. W. Wagon, Mr and Mrs W. G. Carter, Mr and Mrs D. J. Shepherd-Cross, Mr and Mrs David Shepherd-Cross, Mr and Mrs C. Sheppard-Liberty, Mr and Mrs C. Livingstone-Learnmonth, Miss Camilla Livingstone-Learnmonth, Mr Nigel Livingstone-Learnmonth, Mr Michael Wright.

New College Cardiff

The principal, Mr William Hoole, is pleased to announce that the following were successful in the New College School Scholarship Examination: Stuart James, Llanidloes; Frederick Jones, Llanidloes; Christopher Jones, Mid-Cannock; Christopher Jones, Oswestry; Natalie Richards, Llanidloes; and Nelson Thomas, Llanidloes.

He is also pleased to announce that Sixth Form Scholarships for New College Cardiff, are to be awarded by open examination to be held on Saturday, May 1, 1989. Full details of these can be obtained upon application to the Principal's Secretary.

Lord Ramsey of Canterbury

The funeral service for Lord Ramsey of Canterbury will be held in Canterbury Cathedral at 3.00 on Wednesday, May 4. Cabinet, former Cabinet Ministers and members of both Houses of Parliament who wish to attend are requested to inform the Dean's Secretary on 0277 762862. Official representatives, friends and others should notify the Dean's Office, Cathedral House, The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EH. Telephone 0221 762862. Notifications should be made no later than 4.00 on Friday, April 29.

The date and time of a memorial service, to be held in Westminster Abbey, will be announced later.

University news

Oxford Miss Catherine Eva Pestell, an Assistant Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has been appointed Principal of Somerville College, Oxford. She will succeed Miss Daphne Park, who will retire after nine years on October 1, 1989.

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*Rates for single room applies until 31st December 1988.



Detail from 'The Martyrdom of St Stephen' by Desso Dossi (died 1542). The artist's interest in landscape almost overwhelms the subject of the painting, the death of the protomartyr.

The canvas, measuring 80 by 90 cms, is richly coloured and detailed. Dossi was the principal member of a gifted and original school of painters based in Ferrara.

The painting is on show at the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection of Old Masters, sponsored by The Times, at the Royal Academy until June 12.

Marriages

Mr M.J.A. Church and Miss F. Strarratt

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 23, at Fulford Methodist Chapel, York, of Mr Michael Church, son of Mr W. Church and Mrs C. Alsop, to Miss Fiona Strarratt, youngest daughter of Mr W. Strarratt and Mrs M. Strarratt. The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Craig Strarratt, was attended by Mrs Donna Deane, and Miss Nicola Strarratt. Mr Peter Soar was best man. Dr R. Fisher and Miss A.E. Scratton officiated.

Mr A.M.R. Gilchrist and Miss C.M. O'Hes

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 9, at the Church of the Holy Ghost, the Franciscan Friary, Chilworth, Surrey, of Mr Adam Munn Renshaw Gilchrist, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Roderick Munn Renshaw Gilchrist, of Lion Hill, Garstang, Lancashire, and Miss Claire (Mary) O'Hes, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan O'Hes, of Tor Hatch, Surrey. Father Kevin Taggart, OSB, officiated assisted by Father Sylvester, OFM.

Mr M.S. Gottlieb and Miss E. Cave

The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr Stephen Gottlieb, of Chelsea, London, and Mrs Sheelagh Payne, of East Horsley, Surrey, and Belinda, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian McClellan, of Pyrford, Surrey.

Mr D.W.S. Grills and Miss F.C. Soley

The engagement is announced between Dana, only son of Major K.S. Grills, of Ottawa, Canada, and Mrs O. Grills, of Cannes, France, and Frances, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Soley, of Rutherglen, Glasgow.

Mr S.W.F. Hewitt and Miss A.T. Payne

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs P.N. Hewitt, of Bolton, and Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.J.T. Payne, of Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia.

The Rev D. King and Miss P.M. Witham

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr I.K. King, of Bletchingham Gardens, Southampton, and Pamela Mary, daughter of Mr Ray Witham and the late Mrs Mary Witham, of Porlock Weir.

Mr D.J. Mace and Miss P.H.L. St Blaize-Molony

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr I.K. Mace, of Harrow on the Hill, and Mrs I.E. Mace, of Chelsea, and Pagan, youngest daughter of Dr R.T. St Blaize-Molony, of Fordwich, Kent, and Mrs J. Hilderley, of Wolston, Warwickshire.

The Rev C.M.R. Pemberton and Miss T.M.E. Wolf

The engagement is announced between Crispin, younger son of Mr Oliver Pemberton, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, and the late Mrs Elizabeth Pemberton, and Miss T.M.E. Wolf, eldest daughter of Herr Michael Wolff and Frau Hannele Wolff, of Mainz, Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr G.M. Rowland and Miss M.E. Ward

The engagement is announced between Gavin Michael, son of Mr A.T. Rowland, of Peacock Rise, Herefordshire, and Miss M.E. Ward, of Rye, East Sussex, and Muriel Elaine, second daughter of Mr and Mrs R.W. Ward, of Bobcaygeon, Ontario, Canada.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jan van Goyen, painter and etcher, The Hague, 1656; Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, pioneer women's rights leader, London, 1759; Charles Robert Cockerell, architect, London 1788; Herbert Spencer, philosopher, Derby, 1820; Ulysses Grant, general, C-in-C of Union forces in American Civil War, 18th president of the USA, 1869-77; Point Pleasant, Ohio, 1824; Edward Whymper, first man to climb the Matterhorn, 1840; Cecil Day-Lewis, Poet Laureate and, as Nicholas Blake, writer of detective stories, Ballinubett, Co Laois, Ireland, 1904.

DEATHS: James Bruce, explorer in Africa, Lambert, 1794; Sir William Jones, Orientalist, Calcutta, 1794; William Macready, actor-manager, Cheltenham, 1875; Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher and poet, Concord, Massachusetts, 1882; Alexander Scriabin, composer, Moscow, 1915; Hart Crane, poet, Garrettsville, Ohio, 1932; Kwame Nkrumah, first president of Ghana 1960-66, Bucharest, 1972.

During the Spanish Civil War, Guernica was bombed by German planes, 1937.

Forthcoming marriages

Commander M.P. Glancy, RN and Miss M.J. Lamb

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mrs Phoebe Glancy, of Sheet, Petersfield, and the late Major T.R. Glancy, and Mary-Jane, daughter of Sir Michael and Lady Lakin, of Torwood Farm, South Africa.

Mr C.D.B. Atkinson and Miss A.J. Thayer

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr D.M. Atkinson, Warborough, Oxfordshire, and Mrs N.P.D. Lawson, Chobham, Surrey, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.R. Thayer, The Old Rectory, Hannington, Hampshire.

Mr M.S. Gottlieb and Miss E. Cave

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OBITUARY

REAR-ADMIRAL IAIN MACLEAN of PENNYCROSS

Restoring mobility to the Fleet

Rear-Admiral Iain Maclean of Pennyross, CB, OBE, who died on April 17, at the age of 85, was the engineer officer who played the decisive role in updating the Royal Navy's propulsion technology, to give the Fleet the operational flexibility it enjoys today.

This kind of flexibility was not always a thing to be taken for granted. When the US Navy entered the last war, forward-looking engineers like Maclean were pained to find how poorly the Royal Navy fared by the side of its much younger ally, in terms of its ability to stay at sea for long periods.

After the war he therefore determined to discard obsolete machinery in HM ships to give all new construction much greater range and endurance on station.

Iain Gillesburg Maclean was born on November 25, 1902, and joined the Navy in 1916. During the Second World War he served in Combined Operations, and from 1941 to 1943, as engineer officer of the battleship, *Renown*.

After the war he commanded the stokers' school at Torpoint and was at the Imperial Defence College.

He retired from the Navy as deputy Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet, in 1955, and from 1956 to 1960, was Director of

Marine Development, at the Brush Group. He leaves his second wife, Nancy Margaret.

Vice Admiral Louis Le Bailly writes:

There are many aspects of Admiral Maclean's several great services to the Royal Navy, but perhaps the one that should be remembered most is his contribution to the restoration of mobility to the British Fleet — the mobility that eventually made the Falklands campaign possible.

The arrival of the US Navy in the North Atlantic in 1942, and still more its performance in the Pacific campaign, brought home to Maclean, and the small but brilliant naval and civilian engineering team he had gathered around him, how far behind the Royal Navy was in what Fleet Admiral King, USN, described to Congress as "mobility, the prime asset".

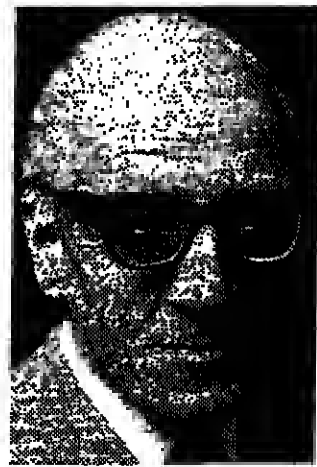
There were many hurdles to be overcome in discarding the boiler and turbine designs of a rather moribund shipbuilding industry; in substituting the potential available in the forward-looking electrical generation industry; in educating a naval staff largely devoid of vision or technological understanding; and not least in overcoming the initially very conservative outlook of Maclean's own naval engineering hierarchy.

Each hurdle was, in turn, surmounted. Maclean was helped by the advent into positions of authority of the first Seiborne/Fisher trained (E) specialists, as well as Battenberg's Mate Scheme, by the unstinting help of the US Navy, and, not least, by the unselfish understanding of Sir Harold Yarrow, whose father, the founder of that great firm, had done much the same for the Admiralty forty years before.

In his biography of Fleet Admiral Nimitz, Professor Potter records that Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser first offered the British Pacific Fleet for only eight days each month in the forward battle area. Although through the efforts of the engineering staffs this figure was often greatly exceeded, ships of the US Fleet were routinely available and ready for action for ninety days or more.

That the Royal Navy in the Falklands could equal and even surpass such a supremely important operational capability can be directly attributed to Maclean and his team, and to others inspired by Maclean's example who strove towards the same goal through gas turbines and nuclear power, all of them with the help of the Yarrow Admiralty Research Department (Y-ARD), the brainchild of Maclean and Sir Harold Yarrow.

DR PAUL STEINITZ



Dr Paul Steinitz, OBE, who was one of the leading British authorities on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, died on April 22, aged 78.

He founded the London Bach Society in 1947. At that time, the Baroque Movement had barely begun in England, in fact it was Dr Steinitz's performances which greatly helped the movement along.

One of his contemporaries in his student days had been Walter Emery who eventually became a leading authority on Bach and influenced Steinitz greatly. He consulted him on textual matters and those of style and performance. His determination to seek out the authentic way of performing Bach occupied the rest of his life.

He was never afraid to experiment but it was always the expressive intention of the movement that was paramount.

He founded the Steinitz Bach Players in 1969 but was wise enough not to use baroque instruments until musicians had become sufficiently proficient on them. He trusted his players and would ask their opinions on interpretations rather than tell them how to play.

He treated his fellow singers in the same way and therefore obtained good performances. He took his singers and players to most European countries including those behind the Iron Curtain and to the USA.

Many people begin their lives with some great project

the Great, Smithfield, where he received encouragement from the incumbent, the Rev Dr N. B. Wallbank, who was also a keen musician. It was there that all his early performances of Bach's St Matthew Passion were given.

He went back to the academy as professor of harmony and composition in 1945 and in 1984 was appointed a consultant professor.

His students were taught to study music rather than write exercises, as the titles of his teaching publications show. He went to Goldsmith's College as principal lecturer in music in 1968 and was a member of the Senate of London University for 18 years.

Steinitz was a modest person and perhaps sometimes took the opinions of others too much to heart. His sense of humour smoothed away problems at rehearsals and his musicians appreciated the integrity which illuminated all his work.

Although he was gregarious and a good companion, his needs were modest and he never seemed to worry about money, except for his concerts.

His interest apart from his music was in his garden where he followed the latest organic principles. He was made an OBE in 1985, the tercentenary year of Bach's birth.

He is survived by his wife who looked after the administrative side of the concerts and two sons and a daughter of previous marriages.

MR ERIC LISTER

Mr Eric Lister, who had successful careers as London art gallery owner, jazz musician, motor car enthusiast, traveller and author has died at the age of 62.

Lister had a colourful life and the highlight of his worldwide travels was the journey he made with his friend, S. J. Perelman, the American humourist writer, in the mid seventies from London to China in a vintage MG. It aimed to retrace the famous Paris to Peking race of 1912. This journey, and other hilarious escapades with Perelman around the world, Lister turned into amusing books, one called *Don't Mention the Marx Brothers*.

As a jazz musician, Lister was a virtuoso player in the style of Fats Waller and for a decade was considered one of the best blues singers in this country.

Lister also knew how to exploit his keen interest in

naive art, becoming in 1960 one of the three founders of the Portal Gallery in Bond Street, pioneering the market in naive, primitive and fantasy art.

He was later joint author with Sheldon Williams of *Twentieth Century British Naive and Primitive Painters*.

Lister had first got to know Sid Perelman after he had come into the London gallery to buy a naive painting.

A friend of Ken Russell, Lister encouraged him to make television films which featured one of the principal painters he showed at the Portal Gallery, the late James Lloyd, playing first himself and then the French painter "Douanier" Rousseau.

Lister had first arrived on the London scene in the fifties after serving in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War.

He was married briefly to the actress, Renny Lister.

LANNY ROSS

Lanny Ross, the American actor and singer, whose smooth tenor voice made him one of the most popular stars of radio's golden era, died on April 25, aged 82.

Ross, whose theme song was "Moonlight and Roses," was in his heyday in the Thirties and Forties on shows such as "Showboat." His romantic style earned him the nickname, "Troubadour of the Moon."

Ross appeared with Irving Berlin and Bob Hope overseas during the war, and starred in early television shows.

Jean Casca, artistic director at Stratford, Ontario, from 1969 to 1974, died on April 20, aged 67.

A native of Montreal, he had spent 19 seasons at Stratford, and in 1959 he founded Montreal's Theatre du Nouveau Monde, which has since become one of Canada's premier acting groups.

Archaeology

Tree-ring dating for mansion

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Counting tree-rings has enabled a Canadian landowner to date a mansion's foundation to the beginning of the 17th century, in spite of expert opinion that it was Victorian in date. A beam found in recent excavations was compared to a master tree-ring chronology in Belfast, and found to come from a tree planted in 1425 and felled around 1618.

Brougham Hall stands on the old border of Cumberland and Westmorland, close to the site of last to be fought on English soil, in 1745. According to Mr Christopher Terry, the owner, the house was dismissed by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as "a Victorian Gothic pile", although a structure including a "hall, fyne house, byre and melder" was marked on a map of 1672. A print of 1700 suggested that

a tower existed once, just over 20 feet square excavations last year showed that the remains included both medieval and Victorian features, including early windows, Tudor bricks and 19th century plaster. A date of some, but uncertain, antiquity was indicated.

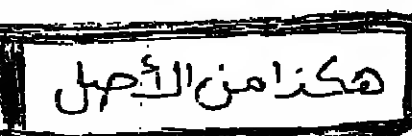
Luckily, the discoveries included a big oak beam, 18 feet long and a foot square, which had fallen from its socket. It had been notched to take floor joists, but had no other cuts, so was not a recycled ship's timber and had probably been made specifically for Brougham Hall.

Mr Terry obtained funding for a dendrochronological date to be assessed at Queen's University, Belfast, where Dr Michael Baillie, of the Palaeoecology Centre, has put together an oak tree-ring sequence: thousands of years in

length, from beams in buildings and "bog oaks" preserved by waterlogging. The funds came from a special fund established by Lloyds Bank to help amateur archaeologists.

Dr Baillie reported that the beam had 161 annual rings, and was probably planted in 1425, because the sawwood had been trimmed off the felling date, but lay between 1609 and 1627.

"It would have been incorporated into the tower at the beginning of the seventeenth century," said Mr Terry. "Peter towers fell into disuse after the union of the English and Scottish crowns in 1603." Such towers were common in the Borders, where they provided fortified bases for local landowners to raid, and resist raids from their neighbours.



PICTURES BY NICK ROBERTS

Flying a flag for jobs

Armada 400 The city's Armada celebrations in July are intended to give a further impetus to its strategy of creating new job opportunities

The Ministry of Defence policeman at the Albert Gate of Plymouth's Devonport Royal Dockyard has seven photographs pinned to the notice-board in his gatehouse. They are of VIPs like Vice Admiral Sir John Webster, the naval base commander, whom the police are supposed to let through on the nod. Everyone else must identify themselves.

The newest photograph to join this gallery is a civilian, an engineer who started his working life as an apprentice at the Vickers shipyard in Barrow and is probably still a lot happier burrowing around in the bowels of a ship than sipping cocktails in the ward room.

Michael Leece, aged 41, is arguably the single most important man in Plymouth. He is managing director of the consortium Devonport Management Ltd (DML), which last year won a seven-year MoD contract to manage the dockyard.

Devonport, built nearly 300 years ago and sprawling across 332 acres and 2½ miles of waterfront, has always been, the linchpin of employment in Plymouth. The decisions that

Mr Leece makes affect the whole city for good or ill. The economic and industrial arithmetic of Plymouth is disturbing. It has an unemployment rate in its travel-to-work area of more than 12 per cent, rising to more than double that in some parts of the inner-city.

The reason is not difficult to find. The naval dockyards have always been the major employer in the area and their demand for labour has been steadily dropping.

The city has been dangerously over-dependent on Devonport. Ship-building and marine engineering accounts for only two per cent of manufacturing industry nationally. In Plymouth the figure is nearly 50 per cent.

That dominance and the special nature of the work — the fact that the projects are defence-related, not civilian — has led to unusual structural problems in employment.

Because of the very high specifications demanded by the Navy, which will spend money on the other side of the world if necessary, to get the highest-standard materials, there have been in the past few years links between the dockyard and local suppliers.



Michael Leece, managing director of the consortium Devonport Management Ltd, which has won a seven-year contract to manage the dockyard

That means that Plymouth's small-business sector is smaller and weaker than in most other towns and cities of comparable size, and that the city has a relatively weak commercial and financial services sector. Look around Plymouth and you will see virtually no new office building. The demand is not there.

Such problems are clearly reflected in the city's occupational structure. It has a much lower proportion than normal of managers and professional people. Top managers can be attracted into the area on advantageous contracts, but tend not to be home grown.

All these problems are exacerbated by the city's location. It is seen by outsiders as

isolated from other parts of the country and from Europe.

Michael Leece's initial impact has been a painful one. The dockyard was handed over to commercial management a year ago to try to make it run more efficiently. It was originally hoped that the redundancy programme that was necessary would be spread gently over six or seven years, but an unexpected cutback in the amount of work that DML gets directly from the Royal Navy has meant the redundancies have had to be accelerated.

DML has already, in its first 12 months, made 2,000 people redundant and that will be followed by 1,000 more this year and 200 in each of the following two years. The

work-force will have shrunk from 11,200 when DML took over to fewer than 8,000 by the early-1990s.

That is the bad news. The good news is that Mr Leece hopes to increase significantly the dockyard's links with local industry.

He said: "The best way we can serve Plymouth as a community is to improve the amount of materials that we buy locally, through the establishment of feeder industries and feeder businesses."

The plans are still in the embryo stage. Mr Leece will not be drawn into suggesting which particular bits of Devonport work might, for instance, be sub-contracted, but executives are already out talking to local companies.

The number of such vic-

"COME TO MY PARTY"

Glorious sporting victories, like the World Cup, have always been reason enough for a national celebration.

SELDOM ARE THEY REMEMBERED AFTER 400 YEARS!

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In view of all the trouble that the good citizens of my fair City are taking, it is my pleasant duty to invite EVERYONE in our Gracious Queen's Realm to share in my celebrations.

By happy coincidence, July 1988 is also 400 years since the Spanish Armada fleet was gently, but firmly, refused immigration visas.

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For more news of the Armada 400 celebrations of our fair City of Plymouth, Good Hostelties and stables for your horses — simply clip the coupon below.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st July OPENING CEREMONY Sponsored by British Gas	19th July RE-ENACTMENT OF DRAKE'S FAMOUS GAME OF BOWLS Sponsored by Shell U.K. Oil	21st July (prov) FINISH OF THE ARMADA CUP RACE	24th July ARMADA HISTORIC BANQUET Sponsored by Carlsberg
3rd July ARMADA COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE	19th July MODERN DAY ARMADA Sponsored by Marcoris Estates and Stonechester D.M. Ltd	23rd July ARMADA COSTUMED BALL Sponsored by Carlsberg	27th July ARMADA SUPPER AND AUCTION
5th-8th July (daily) COMBINED SERVICES WEEK Air Display each day 1pm Beet Retreat each day 9pm		28th July ARMADA 400 THE GRAND FINALE	

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PLYMOUTH-THE PRIDE OF ENGLAND

Anthony Cox looks at the city's plans for a memorable celebration

A great history show sets sail

Planning for the Armada 400 celebrations started, says Roger Matthews, Plymouth's director of marketing and leisure, in 1988. "It was," says John Mills, chairman of the city's leisure services committee, "a put-up job."

"One councillor thought we should have commemorated the sailing of the convict ships to Australia, which took place 200 years ago. We pointed out that they were going and not coming and that was that."

The jokiness underlines the nature of the celebration of Armada 400 from July 1 to 28. "We're celebrating the event — not being jingoistic," says Mr Matthews. We are a city rich in history. There's always something coming up. We carefully look at the diary for dates to celebrate.

"Most people have heard of the Armada and the story of Sir Francis Drake finishing his game of bowls on the Hoe. Now if we didn't capitalize on that to promote Plymouth we would be negligent."

The serious side to Armada 400 can be summed up in one word: jobs. "The key to all our promotional efforts is employment," says Mr Matthews.

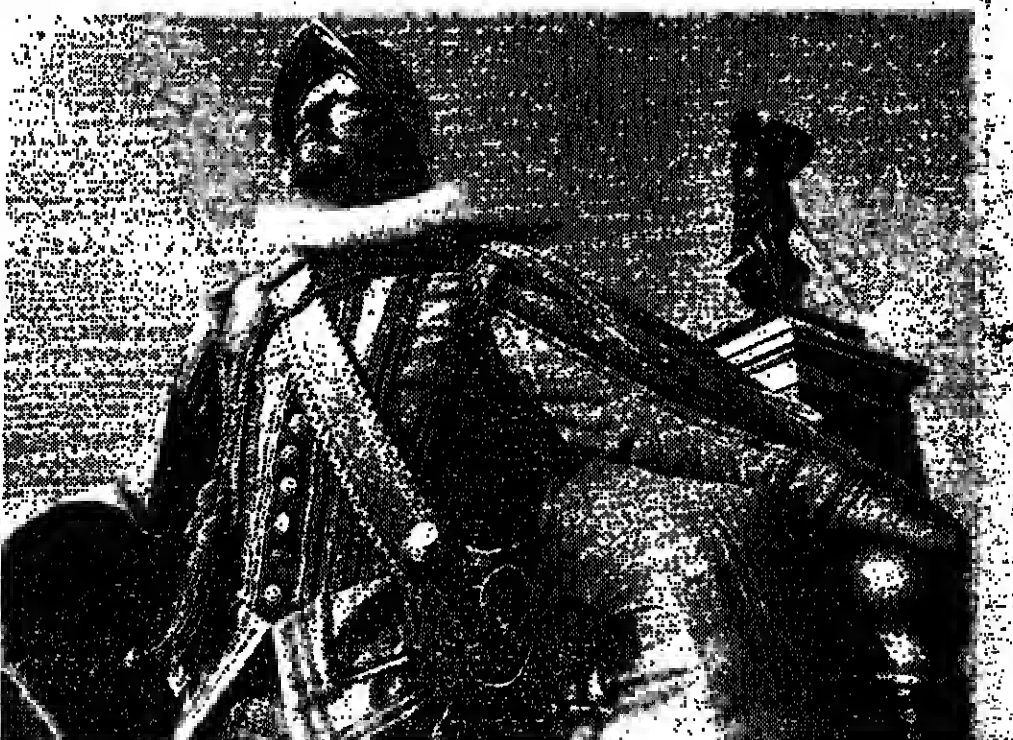
"It's really about creating the idea of Plymouth as a nice place to visit, a place where things happen."

"We are trying to raise the profile of the city in the minds of people who might want to come and spend money. Whether they would want to come and spend money as tourists or by putting up factories to employ people, we're trying to influence them to know more about Plymouth, to come here and to invest."

Planning for Armada 400 began about 18 months ago. The initiative came from the city's leisure services committee and then responsibility moved to the special events committee.

Janet Poynter, the city's entertainments officer, is in day-to-day charge and is co-ordinating all of the Armada events throughout Devon. "She's the boss," says Mr Mills.

Part of the thinking behind Armada 400 is an attempt to break what Mr Mills refers to



Drake — as depicted by actor Bob Crane — in front of the seaman's statue on Plymouth Hoe as "the London-Stratford-Edinburgh triangle".

Mr Matthews explains: "Americans tend to go to London and then to places they have heard of. Increasingly they are going to York because it has been quite heavily promoted. We're trying to entice more to come down here. Plymouth is the biggest city in the West Country. We're right in the middle of a very important holiday area. Tourism to Devon in the last five years has actually gone down, but tourism to Plymouth has gone up."

Mr Mills points out that Plymouth is not "being too parochial. We are thinking about the county as well as the city. Everyone's going to benefit." And, as Mr Matthews adds, "Visitors no longer recognize administrative boundaries."

Janet Poynter is exercising tight control in her role as co-ordinator: "Events are 'themed' to Drake or the Armada. We don't want people putting on jumble sales and calling them 'The Armada 400 Jumble Sale'."

"We are putting on the big events and others are slotting in around us. Visitors will find period entertainment provided free each day — morning and afternoon — in our pedestrianized shopping precinct. Janet's list of "highlight" events from her extensive programme starts with the

opening ceremony on the Hoe at 7 pm on July 1, and runs through the commemorative service in St Andrew's Church (July 3), combined services week (July 5-9), the re-enactment of Drake's legendary game of bowls (July 19), the "modern Armada" mock battle in Plymouth Sound (July 19), the finish of the Armada Cup yacht race (July 20, 21, 22), the official visit by the Queen and Prince Philip (July 21-22), the costumed ball (July 23), the banquet (July 24), a supper and auction (July 27) and "Armada 400 — The Grand Finale" on the Hoe (July 28).

She adds: "We've contacted all the Plymouths throughout the world. We've found 41 so far and new ones turn up every week. New Zealand is sending quite a strong force — 47 of them are coming."

What about the Spaniards? "Oh, they're coming as well," says Mr Mills. "We're having the yacht race with them, from San Sebastian to Plymouth, and civic parties are involved in that. We've heard it rumoured that the King and Queen of Spain might be coming."

Plymouth has high hopes for the success of Armada 400. "Earlier this year, we had an Armada exhibition at the city museum and we estimated 20,000 people would come. In fact, we had 85,000 through the door," says Mr Mills, a former Lord Mayor of Plymouth.

Mr Matthews adds: "We'll quickly be told by the city's hoteliers whether July was any good or not. The signs are looking very good. We are cautiously optimistic."

The city is promoting an extensive range of souvenirs. Mr Mills says: "We've everything from a plastic duck upwards. We have to cater for every taste!"

The most tasteful item is undoubtedly an "official" medal, which is available in gold, silver or bronze, the latter costing just £2.95.

And a tasty item is due from the local Courage brewery which is bottling a special commemorative Armada Ale. "Our last celebration," says Mr Matthews, "was the 400th anniversary, in 1977, of Drake's circumnavigation of the globe."

"What next? We are racking our brains. Our next celebration is going to be the

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Next the Tall Ships Race in 1990

Tall Ships Race, which will be hosted in 1990. That, of course, we've got Drake's death in '95...

Plymouth's Armada celebrations will ripple across England on July 19 — the day in 1588 that the Spanish fleet was first sighted off The Lizard — when a chain of signal beacons will be lit as part of the "Fire Over England" commemoration of the Elizabethan early-warning system.

Armada 400 inquiries should be addressed to City of Plymouth Marketing Bureau, St Andrew's Court, 12 St Andrew's Street, Plymouth, PL1 2AH; tel: 0752-662594

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FOCUS

Too little for tourists

Malcolm Brown looks at efforts to boost the city's attractions

About two million day trippers descend on Plymouth every year... The city's hotels and guest houses...



Charles Church: Once a fine Gothic church but destroyed by bombs in 1941, it has been retained as a shell as a memorial to Plymouth civilians killed during the war.

throughout the year and gives a fillip to the hotel business during the low season.

"In the early 1980s Plymouth was getting about 1,500 high-spending conference delegates a year. By the mid-1980s the total was more than 10,000."

But Plymouth's most obvious drawback has been the lack of undercover tourist attractions. The city is jam-packed when it rains. It is out, by and large, considered a long-stay resort...

And though Plymouth is steeped in history, it actually has little to show for it, except for the Hoe and the Barbican area by the harbour.

Mr Matthews says: "A lot of people come here because they know of the heritage of the place and they know that one or two navigators operated from here. But when you drive into Plymouth there isn't very much you can see or do that tells you about that."

"You can go and stand at the Mayflower Steps. You can go to the museum and see a few things. But we don't have a Victory. We don't have a Mary Rose. We don't have a maritime museum. We're weak on the product. We've got to strengthen that and strengthen it very rapidly."

The city has made a start. It is building a visitors centre on Plymouth Hoe, which will use high-technology techniques to tell the story of Plymouth and

its history, and is planning a major wet-weather leisure complex which will include a swimming pool, ice rink and multi-purpose hall.

Such developments are crucial to Plymouth's economic development, says Mr Matthews. "It's absolutely fundamental; not just to take in people who come anyway, but actually to use that as a reason to get people here."

Getting there: Plymouth is distant. Nothing can change its geographical location, but improved communications have considerably shrunk the time it takes to get there. The main links are:

Road: The motorway journey from London (M4 to Bristol, M5 to Exeter, A38 to Plymouth) takes about four hours, allowing for one stop.

Rail: Frequent InterCity 125 trains from London to Plymouth. The journey takes three hours. There are also direct links with Bristol, Birmingham, the North and Scotland.

Air: Brymoo operates daily services to and from Heathrow and Gatwick. The Heathrow-Plymouth run in a 46-seat Dash 7 is the more comfortable and takes just over an hour, but adventurous spirits may prefer the 18-seater Twin Otter from Gatwick, where a last-minute booking may land you in the co-pilot's seat. It takes a bit longer, stopping en route at Exeter.

Once in the city it is every man for himself. The bus services are generally chaotic - a lot of buses, but almost no indication of where they are going or when. There are glaring gaps - there is no service which goes near enough to the airport to make sense. A taxi from the city centre to the airport is about £5.

The city is not over-endowed with up-market hotels. There are two four-star hotels (the Holiday Inn and the Copthorne), and a few three-star. Private hotels and guesthouses are of a generally high standard, and relatively cheap.



Star of gallery, postcard and poster, Beryl Cook - and husband John - with her most recent work, Gare du Nord

An eccentric corner on the art map of England

"Plymouth is a funny sort of mixture of things really," says Bernard Samuels, director of the Plymouth Arts Centre, referring to the city's art scene. "Even though Plymouth is not known as a centre for painters - it just has these two rather eccentric characters, if you like - there is, I think, rather a lot more here than in some parts of the country."

Mr Samuels's "two rather eccentric characters" are Beryl Cook, who has an international reputation, and Robert Lenkiewicz, whose name is prominently local, writes Anthony Cox.

"I started painting," says Beryl Cook, "because I couldn't get a job. We had come from Africa and were living in Looe in Cornwall. There weren't any jobs there. We had these empty walls and everybody painted, so I thought I might as well see if I could get a few pictures to go on the walls."

From such beginnings, she has, over about 20 years, established herself as a major, if unusual, figure in the art world, with well-attended exhibitions and worldwide sales of her greetings cards and books. A Beryl Cook painting now fetches about £6,000 - a far cry from the days of her first selling exhibition, which was put on in Plymouth by Mr Samuels, a jovial Mancunian artistic talent-spotter who has run the arts centre since the late-1960s.

He recalls: "She was a bag of nerves during that first show in 1975. Some of her early pictures were on wartime plywood. There was such a miscellany of painting. It was painted on all sorts of bits and pieces of stuff. She wasn't painting for posterity, you see. She charged from £25 to £75."

Visitors to Plymouth during Armada 400 month will be able to share something of that experience: the first Beryl Cook retrospective exhibition opens in the city's art gallery on May 28 and runs until July 17, when it will go on tour to Preston, Stoke-on-Trent, Nottingham and Edinburgh.

Says the 61-year-old artist: "This is a really big exhibition - they've got about 93 pictures. I never thought the organizers would get it off the ground, simply because it would be so difficult to get people to lend their pictures. A lot of people are going to lend pictures for six months."

"The exhibition will be a chance for me to take a good look at my work. I'm quite looking forward to seeing some of the earlier pictures."

Beryl Cook lives - with John, her husband of 40 years - and paints in a neat, terraced house, in a wide, busy road leading from the broad expanse of the Hoe down to a corner pub.

She is seldom recognized around the city. "I always feel utterly anonymous, and I think if you feel anonymous you do become so. That's the way I work it out. I see myself today exactly as I did all those years ago, before I started. The only extraordinary thing about me is that I paint. Otherwise, I feel like everyone else. I feel exactly like other women in the shops."

Winifred de Vany, the 88-year-old vice-president of the Plymouth Arts Club, would agree. "People don't seem to think very much of Beryl Cook," he says. "People in the art clubs do, anyway. When I say of her, I mean about her."

Mrs de Vany claims that the arts club "represents the people of Plymouth better than the other clubs. We don't go too much for really way-out work."

But that is not a label anyone could tie to 46-year-old Robert Lenkiewicz, an assertively independent artist who has lived in Plymouth for 20 years.

Any stroller through the Barbican, the city's old quarter, will soon be confronted by a striking example of Lenkiewicz's controversial work: a massive, serpentine mural of made figures - with the faces of Plymouth folk - which climbs the front of building opposite the gin distillery.

Mr Lenkiewicz, popularly acknowledged as both "eccentric" and "very competent", says he will not be celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Armada. "I am totally unsympathetic. We now live in a global village and divisive attitudes are totally unproductive. Historically, Drake didn't win it anyway, so it's really a lot of mumbo-jumbo."

Nevertheless, he is very happy to work in Plymouth. "Altogether I've had 17 exhibitions here. I won't go anywhere else to exhibit."

His subject matter includes death, sexual behaviour, suicide, old age, vagrancy (he is well-known for his work with down-and-outs), mental health and jealousy. He is dismissive of popular interest in his work. "Generally speaking," he says, "the interest here is minimal. I've got used to it anyway - most interest that is shown is of an unintelligent kind."

to manage the dockyard... Malcolm Brown

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This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
* Seats available
* Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

BACK WITH A VENGEANCE: Dame Edna Everage back again joshing the possums. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2600).
THE BROWNING VERSION/HARLEQUINADE: Rattigan double bill...
CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF: Lindsay Duncan and Ian Charleson in Tennessee Williams' drama...

LONG RUNNERS: Beyond Reasonable Doubt...
NANA: Shared Experience's vigorous production of Zola's tale of decadent abandon...

OUT OF TOWN
BURNLEY: Walking in Darkness...
LEEDS: James Eyre: Wendy Nottingham and David Gillin in intriguing new adaptation...

Also on national release
BABETTE'S FEAST (U): One of Karen Blixen's lighter tales...

THE BELIEVERS (18): Mysterious deaths and sacrifices take place when Cal (Martin Sheen) and his son Chris move to New York...

Information Service



Whitney Houston (left) made history last week when "Where Do Broken Hearts Go" became her seventh consecutive single to reach No.1 in the US.

Singing from the soul

Whitney Houston (left) made history last week when "Where Do Broken Hearts Go" became her seventh consecutive single to reach No.1 in the US. According to the chart analyst, Alan Jones, this achievement surpassed the old record of six consecutive No.1s established by the Beatles in 1966 and equaled by the Bee Gees in 1979.

CONCERTS
LUNCHTIME

HEUTE IST DER SIEGESTAG: This is the title of a cantata performed by the Laccosini Ensemble...
FROM PETERBOROUGH: Peterborough String Orchestra plays Mendelssohn's Summer Night's Dream Overture...

CONCERTS
EVENING

ALL STRAUSS: The Philharmonia Orchestra is conducted by Andrew Davis in Richard Strauss's 7th...
WESTMINSTER BRASS: The Westminster Brass Ensemble juxtaposes a great variety of short pieces...

CLASSIC TOP 20

- (1) The Essential Karajan...
(2) The Pavarotti Collection...
(3) Vivaldi: Concerti...
(4) Handel: Fireworks/Water Music...
(5) Duet from Famous Operas...

WALKS

A JOURNEY THROUGH DICKENS'S LONDON: most Embankment tube, 11am, £2.25.
LEGAL LONDON - INSIDE THE LAW COURTS: meet Holborn tube, 2pm, £2.25.

GALLERIES

MINIMO PALADINO: Recent paintings, sculptures and constructions by a young and fashionably angst-ridden Italian artist.
DAVID WARD: New paintings and photo-works.

DANCE

SEPTET: Rambert Dance Company's production of Merce Cunningham's work to Satie music...

OTHER EVENTS

THE AYR SHOW: Major two-day event with classes and judging in cattle, sheep, goats, Cyclesicles, light horses, poultry and rabbits.

TALKS

BABIES IN PAINTINGS: Gallery lecture by Vivienne Loran.
THE NATIONAL GALLERY, Lower Floor, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-839 3321), 1pm, free.

BOOKINGS

SOUTH BANK JUNE programme includes Claudio Arrau 89th birthday concert, Jack Palance memorial, and appearances by Kumbi rock group from Poland.

LAST CHANCE

GONE WITH THE WIND: Final performances of Ben Kaitan play about the American Civil War.

ROCK

PHILIP BENT: Away from the Jazz Warriors, the young futeist leads his fusion band.
GANG OF THREE: Witty, muscular fusion trio from London.

OPERA

COSI FAN TUTTE: First night of English National Opera's revival, now with Felicity Lott and Della Jones.

JAZZ

PHILIP BENT: Away from the Jazz Warriors, the young futeist leads his fusion band.

WORD-WATCHING

EMPTION (b) The act of buying shopping from the Latin em, emptum to buy.
KREISTLE (a) The transitive verb, to disgust or revolt, from the German kreisteln to shudder at.
QVITUT (c) Like a dragon, draco was the Latin serpent (translated into a dragon by the Middle Ages and bestiaries), often regarded as sacred, especially as a guardian of treasure.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 01-928 0200
APOLLO VICTORIA 01-836 6111/12
LES LAJONS
DANGEROUS
STARS HILL 01-379 4444

THEATRES

ADELPHI 01-836 7011 or 240 7913
NICHOLAS LYNDHURST
THE FOREIGNER
HARPOOD

Cottesloe Theatre

REVISED PREVIEW DATES
THE TEMPEST
Tomorrow
Fri & Sat
No Performances.
May 3 and 4: THE WINTER'S TALE
May 5: THE TEMPEST

NATIONAL THEATRE

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
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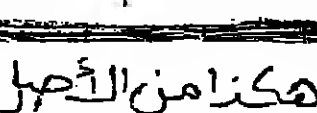
CINEMAS

THE MIRACLE WORKER
THE MIRACLE WORKER
THE MIRACLE WORKER

ART GALLERIES

THE SMALL GALLERIES
THE SMALL GALLERIES
THE SMALL GALLERIES

Open to job opportunities... Every Services and Managers... All kind qualifications market for you... THE GENERAL



TELEVISION AND RADIO

مركز من الأخبار
Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

BBC1

6.00 *Coolfax AM*.
6.30 *Edgar Kennedy in Heart Burn* (tv). 6.45 *Weather*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with John Stapleton and Jerry Packman. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15 and weather at 7.55, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 *Regional news* and weather followed by *The Pink Panther*. Three cartoons (r). 9.20 *Kilroy!* Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on *adult literacy*.
9.00 *News and weather* followed by *One of the Family*. A series of keeping pets. This morning advice on choosing a kitten, how to feed it and protect it from disease (r). 10.25 *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Tommy* and *Draco* and *Neel* against *Terry Griffiths*. Introduced by *David Icke*. Includes news and weather at 10.00, 10.25 *Regional news* and weather.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. *Weather*. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Mrs Mangal receives a surprise when she tries to muddle in her granddaughters' affairs.
1.50 *Racing from Ascot*. The *Irish Stakes* (2.00) (coverage continues on BBC2).
2.15 *Film: Because He's My Friend* (1978) starring Karen Black and Keir Dullea. A made-for-television story about the strains put on a married couple when the couple's retarded son. Directed by Ralph Nelson.

ITV LONDON

6.00 *TV-am* begins with *The Sports Show* introduced by Geoff Clark. 6.30 *The Saturday Show* with Richard Kaye. 7.30 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. After Nine includes a discussion on the Black Report.
9.25 *Thames news*.
9.30 *Cross Via*. World game presented by Tom O'Connor. The hosts are Neil O'Shea and Colin Beier. 10.00 *Santa Barbara* 10.25 *News headlines*.
10.30 *The Times*.
11.30 *Place*. A film Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject 11.10 *Alerts* 11.25 *Thames news headlines*.
11.30 *Sesame Street*. This first programme of the series for the older viewer comes from the Bedford Retirement Education Centre. Pastors defend his newspaper article in which he described today's politicians as the rich and the poor with Jack Jones, vice president of the Pensioners' Convention.
12.00 *The Shallows*. 12.30 *Quadrant*. *Cuts* series presented by Matthew Kelly. The guest is Faith Brown.
1.00 *News at One* with Julia Somerville. 1.20 *Thames news* followed by *Johnnie Walker*. 1.30 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama series set in a remote Australian sheep township.
2.25 *Votes for Women*, presented by Sheila McDonald, discusses the current controversy over brain implants.
2.55 *Take the High Road*. Alice tells Brian what he needs to know and he acts decisively. 3.25 *Thames news headlines*. 3.25 *Sons and Daughters*. Australian family drama serial.
3.55 *International Live* coverage of the friendly game in Budapest between Hungary and England. Brian Moore is the commentator, with analysis by Brian Cough. Followed by news.

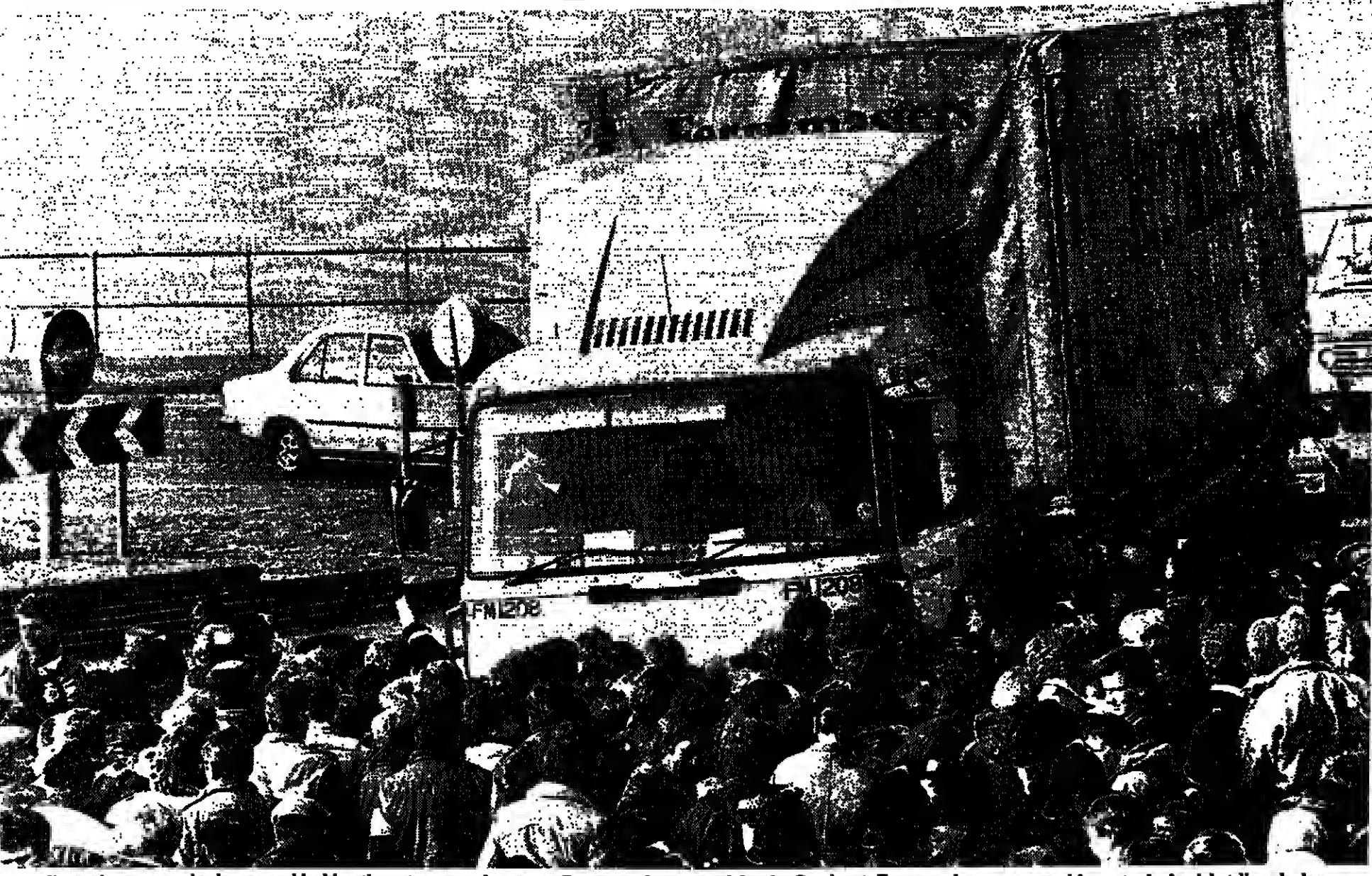
ITV LONDON

6.05 *Thames news*.
6.25 *Help with details of SANDS - The Sillitov and Neonatal Death Society*.
6.30 *Emerald Farm*. *Sandie* makes a shocking discovery about Phil and Eric Pollard.
7.00 *Trading Places*. Paraphrase of Paul Henley's series on the people of the European Community focuses on Spain. (Oracle)
7.30 *Contending Forces*. Partridge is having staff problems. (Oracle)
8.00 *The Henry Hill Show*. Comedy sketches larded with innuendo.
9.00 *The Return of Sherlock Holmes: The Bruce Partington Plans*. In this final mystery of the series the master detective investigates the death of a man found by a railway line. On him there are plans of a secret submarine - is the man a traitor?
10.00 *News at Six* with Sandy Gall and Carol Burnett.
10.35 *Midweek Sport Special*. International football dominates with action from matches in Sweden between Hungary and England, in Dublin between the Republic of Ireland and Yugoslavia, and in Madrid where Spain meet Scotland.
12.00 *Film: The Border* (1980) starring Telly Savalas and Eddie Albert. Drama about the reverberating battle of legal status border guards to stop illegal immigrants and drugs runners from crossing over from Mexico. Directed by Christopher Lill.
1.30 *America's Top Ten* presented by Casey Kasem.
2.00 *News headlines* followed by *Horror* for *Terror*. *Horror* (1984) starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee. A series of five horror stories. Directed by Freddie Francis.
4.00 *News headlines* followed by *WICP in Cincinnati*. Comedy series.
4.30 *Fifty Years On*. Vintage newsreels.
5.00 *ITN Morning News*. Ends 6.00.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 *WALKS* 6.30-6.55 *Wales Today* 6.55-7.10 *News* followed by *Neighbours* 7.10-7.25 12.15 *News* and *weather* SCOTLAND 12.15-12.30 *News* 12.30-12.45 *Regional News* 12.45-1.00 *Regional News* 1.00-1.15 *Regional News* 1.15-1.30 *Regional News* 1.30-1.45 *Regional News* 1.45-2.00 *Regional News* 2.00-2.15 *Regional News* 2.15-2.30 *Regional News* 2.30-2.45 *Regional News* 2.45-3.00 *Regional News* 3.00-3.15 *Regional News* 3.15-3.30 *Regional News* 3.30-3.45 *Regional News* 3.45-4.00 *Regional News* 4.00-4.15 *Regional News* 4.15-4.30 *Regional News* 4.30-4.45 *Regional News* 4.45-5.00 *Regional News* 5.00-5.15 *Regional News* 5.15-5.30 *Regional News* 5.30-5.45 *Regional News* 5.45-6.00 *Regional News* 6.00-6.15 *Regional News* 6.15-6.30 *Regional News* 6.30-6.45 *Regional News* 6.45-7.00 *Regional News* 7.00-7.15 *Regional News* 7.15-7.30 *Regional News* 7.30-7.45 *Regional News* 7.45-8.00 *Regional News* 8.00-8.15 *Regional News* 8.15-8.30 *Regional News* 8.30-8.45 *Regional 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Four arrested as pickets clash with police



Police trying to move back seamen blocking the entrance to the port at Dover to a lorry bound for the Continent. Four people were arrested in yesterday's picket-line clashes.

Continued from page 1
possession of an offensive weapon.

During the incidents, police reinforcements, drafted in from other parts of Kent and held in reserve elsewhere in Dover until the trouble flared, moved in to swell the police presence to about 150 and eventually succeeded in clearing the road.

Mr McCluskey later made a brief appearance at the port entrance and appealed to strikers to keep calm. "Our argument is with P&O, not the police," he told them.

The pickets succeeded in stopping sailings on Dover-Calais service operated by the two British-crewed Sealink Ferries. Insufficient NUS members reported for work to make services possible.

However, the two French-crewed Sealink Ferries were able to cope with the day's light traffic at Dover and only short delays were reported. British crews on two ferries on the Folkestone-Boulogne run ignored NUS pickets.

Local NUS officials were confident that no British Sealink ships would sail out of Dover overnight. Although they condemned the earlier clash with police, Dover NUS port committee member Mr John Wood said there was mounting frustration among the sacked seamen.

"These men and women are not militants. A lot of them are petty officers with 15 or 20 years' service," he said.

"But they have been angered by a company intent on putting profit before safety."

Mr Eric Nevin, general secretary of the National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Off-

cers, said his members had been instructed not to sail with non-unionised and under-qualified seamen. Any dismissals would be met with immediate court action.

Two nautical surveyors from the Department of Transport will carry out checks on the five ferries today. The surveyors will also study the qualifications of crews as part of the checks requested by the company last week.

Mr Graeme Dunlop, managing director of P&O European Ferries, said: "These ships have been out of service for three months and none of the crews have worked for three months."

"Whilst the ships have been maintained throughout this period, we think it is a sensible and prudent measure to have a complete independent check of equipment, systems and drills."

The company formally dismissed the 720 NUS members, who have refused to take up the contracts reflecting the new terms and conditions set out in the Red Book, when it yesterday sent them their P45s.

Labour's front bench entered the P&O dispute by calling for an independent inquiry and claiming the company's tactics raised "serious doubts about ferry safety".

In a statement released by Mr Boh Hughes, the Shadow Transport Secretary, and Mr Michael Meacher, Shadow Employment Secretary, it said: "It is incredible that only 13 months after the Zebrugge disaster, P&O should be locked in a bitter struggle to impose reduced manning levels on cross-channel ferry traffic."

Families split by the Dover dispute

By Boris Johnson

Hundreds of men throughout Dover had their notices of dismissal hand-delivered yesterday morning, as P&O hired a firm of dispatch riders to distribute the P45 tax forms and Seaman's Discharge Books that mark severance with the company. It was the final fulfilment of a threat that has been issued and withdrawn four times.

Mr Michael Cotter, aged 39, formerly an able seaman on the *Pride Of Calais*, was woken at 5.15 am to receive the blue discharge book that he has used for 13 years of service on the ferries.

"As he stood in the crowd of pickets at the Eastern Dock, he said: 'I haven't got a clue what I am going to do next, but I have got plenty of time to think about it.'"

The division between the 800 who have lost their jobs by

staying out on strike and those who have decided to go back to work can be felt not just in the community at large. In Dover, even individual families have been torn apart.

The three Holley brothers all work on the ferries. But yesterday Able Seaman Alan Holley was on the picket lines after learning that his brother Martin, a chief cook, was one of about 30 strike-breakers preparing to bring the ferries back from Rotterdam.

"I will have no more to do with him. I hope that he does not come back through this picket line because I will just ignore him," he said.

The third brother, Philip, has signed the contract to get medical severance from P&O because he has a bad back. He said: "I am disgusted with my eldest brother. I doubt whether I shall have much to do with him at all."

Veteran of miners' strike in Dover front line

Continued from page 1

headlights on and its horn blaring, drove at speed through the picket line, scattering police and demonstrators.

From his home in Deal, near Dover, Mr French said later that he had had the lorry for many years and had used it throughout the miners' strike. He said he had not worked since being dismissed by the coal board for occupying Betteshanger col-

liery in Kent and had spent the past year working for the Justice for Mineworkers' campaign throughout Britain.

"Putting me in prison did not make one bit of difference to the way I feel," said Mr French, who was released early last year after spending a little more than two years in jail.

Mr French, who was sentenced on appeal to four years in prison for causing grievous bodily harm to a police officer,

was accused by local National Union of Seamen officials of "inciting" pickets.

Since his release he has remained an activist and appeared on many picket lines, including Wapping.

After the incident at Betteshanger colliery he was charged in 1984 with grievous bodily harm after a joint attack on the lone constable who was protecting Wivenhoe Docks, Essex, from pickets. The officer suffered a hro-

ken nose and dislocated shoulder after being punched to the ground and kicked in the head and body. The judge, who jailed French for five years, later reduced to four on appeal, said he could have killed the officer if dockers had not intervened.

From his cell, he campaigned unsuccessfully to become vice-president of the National Union of Mineworkers and deputy to Mr Arthur Scargill.



A picket tries to persuade a lorry driver to back the strike by not entering the port (Photographs: Denzil McNeelance).

Commons sketch

Young cadets and a curious unity

Mr Harry Greenway was up again. Like Mr Billy Whizz, whose peculiar crinkly hairstyle his own seems to mirror, Mr Greenway is always on his feet. He wished to praise the Cadets scheme offered by the Army. Did it not encourage comradeship, discipline, adventure, training in leadership? With a swirl of his necktie, which now seems to be lengthening at such a rate that it has recently become a potential hazard to pedestrians, he sat back down again.

The Prime Minister's own Cadets scheme seems to encourage one or two of these qualities, but never all four together. Her adventurous cadets tend not to be disciplined, her good leaders tend not to be comradely, and so on. Her most junior cadets seem to have specialised in only one subject — discipline — jettisoning all the others as likely to cause offence.

Mr Matthew Carrington (Cois, Fulham) is one of those new young cadets who can be relied upon to keep to his feet and yell out an appropriate battle-cries whenever he is called on to do so. He looks a bit like an Action Man gone to seed, and speaks in a manner suggesting that the string on his back has just been pulled and released. He wished to convey to the Prime Minister "how delighted the nurses are with their recent pay award". He assured her that "morale has greatly improved". And with that the walking, talking cadet stepped back into his box, ready to be brought out again on another rainy day.

Mr Neil Kinnock, who is still stopping his way through an alternative Leadership training scheme, reminded the Prime Minister that he had asked her two weeks ago whether she would amend Housing Benefit. Then she had said no. Would she now give the same answer?

"We are spending FAR more in real terms..." The Prime Minister addresses the Leader of the Opposition as if he were not just a cadet, but a cadet mouse. The sooner you get back on that training wheel, the better, her tone seems to imply. Yesterday, the cadet mouse spoke to the Prime Minister as if she were a particularly naughty child from a Cautionary Tale by Mr Hilaire Belloc, a view

shared, no doubt, by many of his fellow cadets. *Hilda told such dreadful lies.*
It made *Tam* gasp and stretch his eyes.
"She knows she's been wrong, she knows she's done wrong," said Mr Kinnock.
"Why doesn't she just get on with it?" He then said that though two weeks might be a short time in politics, it was a long time for those without Housing Benefit. Two weeks a short time in politics indeed! How long has it been since Mr Kinnock sat through Questions to the Secretary of State for Wales? Two weeks in politics is closer to five years in normal life, and those five years would be exclusive of Christmas or birthdays.

The Prime Minister emitted a list of moves, more resources, more cash in real terms, more money spent on Social Services, more on the Health Services, and so on. Having finished one list, she started on another: a Labour administration would be forced to cut health spending, cut nurses, cut doctors, cut and so on. Barely had she finished speaking before one of her very own cuts rose to speak. Mr Leon Brittan wanted her to agree with him that "those who want to go to work have a right to do so", a plea which seemed to come straight from the heart.

It was left to a senior cadet to introduce a titter to the parade ground. Colonel Stokes, resolutely moustachioed and military both in background and bearing, jumped to attention from his seat at the back and praised the "remarkable speech" at the formation of the Radical Society by the Right Honourable Member for Chingford. He agreed with Mr Norman Tebbit when he had praised "the part the so-called working-class had played in supporting government policies" but he wished the Prime Minister to confirm that there was still a place in the party "for the nobility, the gentry and the middle-classes".

There was a sound of laughter like gunfire. Mr Stokes — always aware of the effect he is creating — led the laughter, and both Mr Kinnock and Mrs Thatcher followed suit, in their very first display of unity in the present Parliament.

Craig Brown

Blueprint for ITV

Continued from page 1

fulfil programme requirements. If competitive tendering has to be applied, its suggests a two-stage process, with the IBA setting a price for a franchise, and then awarding it according to the "best" programme proposals.

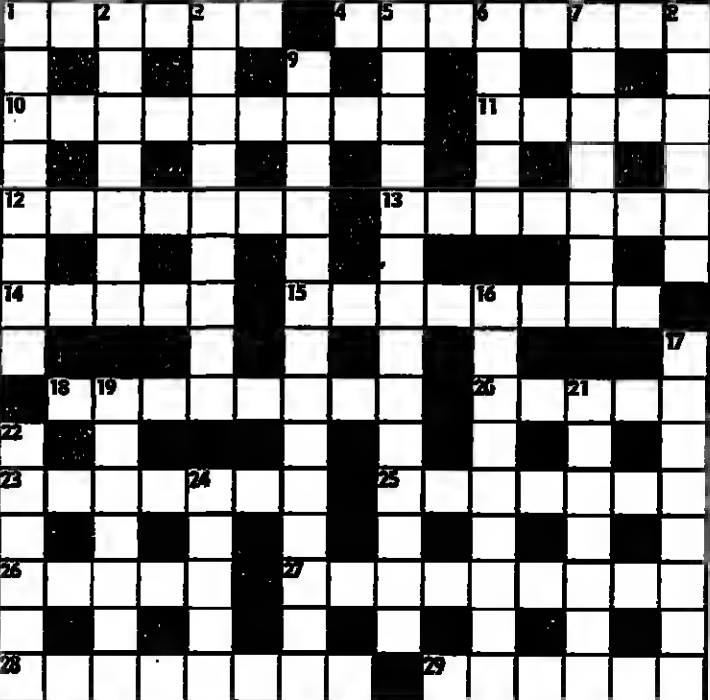
- Limiting the size of individual shareholdings in ITV companies.
- Allowing people without television staff or programme-making facilities to bid for ITV franchises.
- Allowing all ITV companies to have equal opportunity to offer programmes for network screening.

of IBA proposals by the time a Bill affecting television is introduced late in 1989.

A full-scale public consultation exercise is to be organized in the IBA so that viewers can say what they think in advance of broadcasting legislation.

The key points and recommendations in the IBA policy statement include:
A "preferred option" of awarding ITV contracts according to judgements made by the IBA about ability to

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,654



- ACROSS**
1 Vessel is a mile in length (6).
4 One in a position to make a come-back? (8).
10 Wine from Port of Spain? (9).
11 A pound short in the balance (5).
12 Sort of chips you get in such an industrial valley? (7).
13 Notice record prize draw that is not wanted? (7).
14 Matron perhaps getting medicine right (5).
15 Light car for railwaymen? (8).
18 Galleries between Dover and Ashford (8).
20 Cattle hard to find in Wales (5).
23 Wooster gives suit to Jeeves (7).
25 She was entitled to succeed in the play (7).
26 Nonsensical fellow with a name to memorise (5).
27 Generally at home with shorthand (2,7).28 Training horses in the period costume? No, just the opposite (8).
29 Settler holding royal petition (6).
- DOWN**
1 Squash — several games per team (3,5).
2 Game of wits (7).
3 The five-hundred pounds enigma — a prickly one? (9).
5 An educational facility for the Penzance band? (8,6).
6 Island lives under historical measure (5).
7 Board to a university in dramatic scene (7).
8 Discussion would be needed first for this girl to become housekeeper (6).
9 Rural revels — Turkey-trotting, for example (7,7).
16 One of several supporters in rail hold-up (9).
17 Huntsman has damage to curse about (8).
19 Zealously copy one with feathers behind (7).
21 Useful service from the little woman, about a point up (7).
22 Climbed, then peeled off (6).
24 Sign in front of take-away (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

EMPTION
a. A nuclear particle
b. The act of buying
c. Blackmail for something other than money

KREISTLE
a. To disgust
b. A swarovski Austrian coin
c. A Viennese chocolate bun

QIVUIT
a. A minor Aztec god
b. A type of legal plea
c. Wool

DRACONIC
a. Terse and short
b. Inhumanly severe
c. Dragonish

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,653

DO	THET	RICK	I	D	E	A
A	R	I	S	U	F	A
W	R	I	T	T	E	N
N	L	S	T	A	N	I
S	T	A	N	I	E	B
P	L	A	N	E	R	F
L	S	T	A	N	I	E
S	P	H	L	A	N	D
C	S	G	E	L	L	H
C	S	C	L	E	W	A
A	C	I	C	L	E	R
C	O	N	S	T	A	B
A	P	E	S	O	T	M
E	B	B	S	A	I	N
T	O	T	E	A	D	V
T	O	T	E	A	D	V

Concise crossword, page 11

WEATHER

North and west Scotland will be dry and bright with some sunshine. Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with some sunshine in the west. Southern and eastern Scotland, England and Wales will be rather cloudy with some bright spells in south-west England. Most places will be dry but showers are possible, particularly in eastern regions. Easterly winds will keep temperatures below normal. Outlook: northern and western areas mainly dry with some showers in the east.

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Swiss company says it had 'no alternative' to making an offer

Rowntree fights £2.1bn Nestlé bid

Nestlé, the Swiss foods group, yesterday launched a £2.1 billion takeover bid for Rowntree, Britain's second-largest confectionery maker.

Nestlé said it had been forced into the bid after the recent dawn raid by Swiss rivals Suchard which won a 14.9 per cent stake in the York-based company.

Rowntree chairman Kenneth Dixon immediately rejected both the bid and any "white knight", insisting the company should stay independent.

Shareholders at a packed annual meeting were adamant that "Rowntree belongs in York". Shares soared beyond the 890p offer to close at 928p.

By Michael Tate

Nestlé, the Swiss chocolate and frozen foods combine that ranks as the biggest food group in the world, has been "forced" to launch a £2.1 billion takeover bid for Rowntree, Britain's second biggest confectionery group.

Suchard is sitting pretty. Its £200 million investment is showing a profit of £82 million inside two weeks.

Now it must decide whether to challenge Nestlé's bid for control. Analysts believe that it may be tempted, but that Nestlé will, in any event, win the day. "Money doesn't matter."

Suchard was less committed. Its shareholders, attending their own annual meeting in Neuchâtel, heard only that their board was "considering our position in the light of the new situation."

Suchard is sitting pretty. Its £200 million investment is showing a profit of £82 million inside two weeks.

Suchard is sitting pretty. Its £200 million investment is showing a profit of £82 million inside two weeks.

Now it must decide whether to challenge Nestlé's bid for control. Analysts believe that it may be tempted, but that Nestlé will, in any event, win the day. "Money doesn't matter."

Nestlé would have preferred to negotiate some kind of trading arrangement, and indeed Herr Maucher has approached Mr Dixon repeatedly during the course of the past year - but without success.

"We have never had any intention to bid," Herr Maucher stressed, and it is true that contested takeover bids have not been their style. "We have been forced into this position," he insisted.

Financing the deal will be no problem. Nestlé, whose worldwide sales of £14 billion produced net profits of £700 million last year, had £2.7 billion in its deposit account at the year-end.

But Dr Reto Domeniconi, the group's chief financial officer, denies that the group was amassing a war chest. "We have a profitable business and the money just collects."

The cash mountain obviates any necessity for a share exchange alternative from Nestlé, a move that might have proved embarrassing in the light of the group's lack of a share quote in London.

Nestlé has been trading in Britain since the day in 1866 when it was founded in Switzerland, but still has only 2 per cent of the British confectionery market, compared with the 21 per cent claimed by Rowntree, which itself ranks third behind Cadbury Schweppes and the American group Mars.

Its British operations, which

traces its origins back to a humble grocer's shop in York in the early 18th century, directly challenges the uninvited rival earlier this month on the British confectioner by Herr Klaus Jacobs, the chairman of Suchard and a member of the Jacobs coffee dynasty from the north German city state of Bremen.

News of the rival Nestlé bid reached Herr Jacobs just as he was opening his company's annual meeting in Zurich, but failed to provoke him into any hasty response.

Instead, with Hanselc calm, he finished the meeting and flew off to Italy to take part in a dressage event that decides whether he gets into the Swiss riding team for the Seoul Olympics. He has had a Swiss passport for some years.



'Hand forced': Nestlé's Helmut Maucher in London yesterday (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

'Group must stay in York'

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Kenneth Dixon, the chairman of beleaguered Rowntree, last night vowed to carry on the fight to keep the company independent and rejected suggestions that it would need a "white knight" to survive.

Mr Dixon, speaking after the shareholders meeting in York, said: "We intend to argue the case for the independent development of this business. Because this is the best way for it to go. We are not seeking any help." But he hinted that it may expect help from Westminster.

"We have a business highly focused on confectionery. We have the best brands in the world and we are perfectly capable of exploiting them ourselves. We see no advantage in joining together with anyone."

Earlier the "house full" sign was posted at the Joseph Rowntree theatre in York as more than 450 shareholders attended the 91st and most crucial annual meeting in its history.

Dazed by the raid on Rowntree's shares by the Swiss chocolate group, Suchard, shareholders were suddenly having to digest Nestlé's rival bid.

"I suppose someone could have come along and tried to buy the York Minister - that might have been worth it," said one shareholder. Others expressed their determination to keep Rowntree in York - whatever the cost.

"I don't want £10 a share, even £20. Rowntree belongs in York not in Zurich or anywhere else," said one.

Mr Hughie Main, from New Earswick, Yorkshire, said: "I am not interested in the money. I only own 150 shares but even so I still don't want to see the company taken over."

Ms Lilian Maw, another shareholder, said: "I don't think it would be Rowntree chocolates if they were taken over. No one makes such good chocolates as Rowntree."

The biggest applause during the meeting went to Sir Donald Barron, a former chairman and now head of the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust. He wished the board success in the "anxious days ahead." He said it would be wrong for the company to be snapped up by a predator, "particularly someone not even part of the Common Market."

Piaget sold to Cartier

The French jeweller Cartier - 46.5 per cent owned by Richemont International, the British tobacco group - has acquired Piaget, the Swiss luxury watchmaker, and its subsidiary, Baume et Mercier, to extend its reach into the world luxury watch market.

Mr Alain Dominique Perrin, the Cartier chairman, said in Paris that the companies would be grouped in a Geneva holding company called PMB Holding International and would aim for a turnover of \$1 billion this year against Cartier's \$680 million 1987 sales.

Tarmac, the country's largest housebuilder, increased pre-tax profits from £170.5 million to £265.4 million. A final dividend of 5.25p makes a total of 7.25p for the year against 5.5p last time.

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Holt brews up

Joseph Holt, the Manchester brewer, raised pre-tax profits from £3.29 million to £3.42 million on turnover of £11.5 million in calendar 1987. A final dividend of 15p makes 20p for the year, 2p up on the previous year.

FR Group up

FR Group, formerly Flight Refuelling, made pre-tax profits of £22.1 million in the year to end-December, a rise of 31.5 per cent. The total dividend rose 20 per cent to 4.62p.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2051.23 (+13.93)
Nikkei	Average	27246.77 (+33.32)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2585.97 (-37.78)
Amsterdam	Gen	2483 (+0.6)
Frankfurt	Gen	1441.1 (+14.3)
Brussels	Comstock	1361.1 (-15.8)
London	FT-100	928.12 (+9.67)
	FT-250	1019.2 (+11.5)
	FT-1000	307.1 (+2.2)
	FT-1000	96.78 (-0.52)
	FT-1000	89.99 (+0.10)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS:	Rowntree	927 1/2p (+175p)
	ICI	931 1/2p (+17p)
	Carbury	330 1/2p (+90p)
	Unilever	280 1/2p (+11p)
	Bees	84 1/2p (+11p)
	Coors	251 1/2p (+15p)
	Coats	384p (+32p)
	S W Bankford	304 1/2p (+11p)
	Consolidated	727 1/2p (+30p)
	Reckitt & Coleman	860 1/2p (+33p)
	Unilever	487 1/2p (+20p)
	Avon	400p (+10p)
	Brown Shipley	400p (+10p)
	ECC	418 1/2p (+14p)
	Pittington	218 1/2p (+11p)
	Volex	310p (+15p)
	Comvella	310p (+15p)

FALLS:

FR Group	251 1/2p (-27p)
GR	71 1/2p (-10p)
Richards (Leeds)	300p (-10p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base	8%
3-month interbank	8%-8 1/4%
3-month eligible bills	7 1/2%-7 3/4%
buying rate	8 1/2%
US Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Federal Funds	6 1/4%
3-month Treasury	5.88-5.87%
30-year bonds	9 1/2%-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.8745	£ \$1.8750
£ DM 3.452	£ DM 3.452
£ Sfr 2.6043	£ Sfr 2.6043
£ FF 10.8771	£ FF 10.8771
£ Yen 234.00	£ Yen 234.00
£ Index 82.5	£ Index 82.5
ECU £0.660351	SDR £0.734484

GOLD

London Fixing:	AM \$448.25	PM \$447.00
close	\$447.50-448.00	(2288.50-229.00)
New York:	Comex	\$448.00-448.50*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (June) pm	\$17.20/bbl (\$17.23)
* Declares latest trading price	

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Rival Germans lead the British chocolate war

By Colin Narborough

The bitter war between Switzerland's chocolate makers, Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard, which has now engulfed Rowntree, Britain's third biggest chocolate group, is actually commanded by two Germans.

Herr Helmut Maucher, who directs Nestlé's global food-processing empire from the quiet, picturesque town of Vevey on Lake Geneva, is a native Bavarian despite his 40 years with the Swiss company.

News of the rival Nestlé bid reached Herr Jacobs just as he was opening his company's annual meeting in Zurich, but failed to provoke him into any hasty response.

RIVALRY FOR ROWNTREE

	Nestlé Swiss Fr	Jacobs Suchard Swiss Fr
Turnover	35.2 9bn	6.1bn
Net profit	1.9bn	295m
Operating profit	3.7bn	474m
Cash flow	3.0bn	394m
Net profit per share	557	530
Shareholders funds	12.7bn	1.1bn
Sales	2.8bn	3.5bn
Staff (no of people)	163,000	16,000

Nestlé: Suchard, Toblerone, Milkos, Cote D'Or, Van Houten, Jacobs Suchard: M&S, Bar, Crunch, Choctat Chips, (1987 figures)

'Rise in pound will have adverse effects on industry in long term'

Output and orders buoyant says CBI

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday reported strong growth in output, healthy orders and a record proportion of companies planning to increase investment over the next 12 months.

The April survey, carried out between March 25 and April 13, showed some evidence of pressures on industrial capacity and of higher inflation, but CBI officials denied that these signalled an emerging overheating problem in the economy.

Mr Wigglesworth said that the investment figures showed the long-term confidence of business but that the combination of a high pound and relatively high interest rates would cut margins and make it more difficult for firms to invest in research and development, skills and training.

There was little indication in the CBI's latest Quarterly Survey of Industrial Trends of any effects on exporters following the pound's recent rise. But Mr David Wigglesworth, the chairman of the CBI's Economic Situation Committee, said that the pound's rise, together with its recent volatility, would have adverse effects on industry in the long term.

"Instability of sterling makes forward planning very difficult and, after its recent sharp appreciation, sterling must now be right at the upper end of any range acceptable to British industry," he said.

This figure, on the face of it worrying, is balanced by the investment optimism shown in the survey, with 48 per cent of companies planning to increase plant and machinery investment during the next 12 months and only 16 per cent expecting to invest less. The balance, of 32 per cent, compared with 20 per cent in January.

In addition, 86 per cent of companies said that present capacity was adequate to meet demand over the next 12 months. Over a third, 35 per cent, of firms raised domestic prices in the first four months of the year.

The main surprise of the survey was the buoyancy of output and orders, both at home and abroad, in spite of the strength of the pound and recent indications from official figures of a slowdown in the economy.



Cautious: Wigglesworth

Guinness role in brewery takeover

By Lawrence Lever

The Department of Trade and Industry inspectors investigating Guinness have uncovered a secret role which the brewing and spirits group played in the closely fought takeover battle between Scottish & Newcastle Breweries and Matthew Brown, the Blackburn brewer.

The inspectors have already been told that details of the losses which Guinness incurred on the shares were provided to Mr Olivier Roux, the then Guinness finance director, at his request.

The purchase of about 200,000 Matthew Brown shares costing more than £1 million was effected in December 1985. This was shortly before Scottish & Newcastle's £125 million bid was due to close.

The Guinness inspectors have questioned several people on the circumstances surrounding the secret purchase of about 1 per cent of Matthew Brown's shares by G&C Moore, a Guinness subsidiary, in the closing stages of the bid for Matthew Brown by S&N in late 1985.

Although the shares were purchased for the account of G&C Moore, Guinness apparently wanted complete secrecy about its role in the bid battle.

The shares were therefore registered in the name of a third party.

In evidence given to the Department of Trade inspectors, Mr Anthony Paros, who acted merely as the stockbroker purchasing the Matthew Brown shares, says that the only person who could have given him instructions over the need for secrecy would have been Mr Roux.

The Scottish & Newcastle bid for Matthew Brown in 1985 was a very closely run battle. S&N was offering 16 of its own shares for every five Matthew Brown shares with a cash alternative of 540p.

S&N eventually secured just over 50 per cent of Matthew Brown's shares. However, the bid was subsequently lapsed by the full Takeover Panel who ruled that a last minute extension during which S&N crept above the 50 per cent mark should not have been allowed by the Panel executive.

Matthew Brown shares dropped by over £1 after returning from suspension while the Panel deliberated.

According to Mr Parnes, Mr Roux asked him to do a calculation on the losses incurred on the Matthew Brown shares purchased by Guinness. He gave the calculation to Mr Roux.

Mr Roux was abroad on holiday yesterday and unavailable for comment. Guinness said it had no comment to make.

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and so on. Barely had
finished speaking but
of her very own cut
speak. Mr Leon
wanted her to agree with
that "those who want
work have a right to de-
pleas which seemed to
straight from the heart.

It was left to a senior
to introduce a titer to
parade ground, Cal-
Stokes.
moustached and with
both in background and
he jumped to attention
his seat at the back
praised the "remark-
speech" at the forma-
the Radical Society for
Right Honourable Mem-
for Chingford. He
with Mr Norman
part he had praised
the so-called work-
ing government policy
he wished the Prime
to confirm that there
place in the party
reality, the gen-try
middle-classes."

There was a small
laughter like gunfire.
Nokes - always aware
effect he is creating -
laughter, and both
Kinross and Mrs
paved suit, in the
display of unity in
present Parliament.

Craig Hope

print for ITV

... programme
... to be applied
... a two-stage
... with the IBA
... a franchise,
... and then
... according to
... the best
... proposals.

... limiting the size
... of the share-
... holdings in
... companies.

... allowing people
... to buy shares
... in companies
... which are
... not listed
... on the stock
... exchange.

... allowing all
... ITV companies
... to have equal
... opportunities
... for advertising.

PM

MANCHESTER

HIGHEST & LOWEST

YESTERDAY

NOON TODAY

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Victory for Borrie in battle with Lautro

Insurance salesmen are to be forced to tell clients exactly how much commission they are earning from a sale.

Sir Gordon criticized the original proposal that would have allowed insurance and unit trust salesmen to tell clients merely that they were abiding by the industry agreement on commissions - soft disclosure - rather than having to tell them in blunt terms exactly what that commission amounted to - hard disclosure.

BHP accepts Rheem offer

Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP) said it had accepted a takeover bid of A\$2.65 (\$1.07) a share from SA Brewing Holdings for its remaining 62.5% million shares in Rheem Australia, a light engineer.

Logica buys Jardine stake

Logica, the computer software group, is buying out Jardine Matheson's 50 per cent interest in its Far Eastern joint venture, Jardine Logica.

Growth at Five Oaks

Five Oaks Investments, the property developer, is promising at least a maintained final dividend of 1p after half-year pre-tax profits for the six months to end-December, up 46 per cent to \$209,000.

The company made a maiden payment for the last financial year but is not paying an interim dividend. It says projects are progressing well and the property market has remained firm, with strong rental growth in central London which will enhance the value of its latest acquisitions in Covent Garden.

S&R profits stand still

Profits at Scott & Robertson, the Scottish packaging company, were almost unchanged in the year to end-December at £1.62 million (£1.68 million), on turnover up from £26 million to £32.5 million. It had for once not less than £1.5 million profits when it bought Visqueen from ICI in December. The total dividend was 4p (3.5p).

Lee on board at Hazlewood

Mr Francis Lee, the former Manchester City and England footballer, is joining the board of Hazlewood Foods as a non-executive director. Mr Lee, who made some 700 appearances in the Football League, sold his FFI Lee paper tissues business to Hazlewood in 1981 for more than £8 million, and continued to run it as a subsidiary.

Win £50,000 in unit trusts

- Our Stockwatcher competition, with £50,000 worth of unit trusts from Equitable Life as prizes, is now in its second week. Equitable Life has an excellent reputation and a long history of sound investment and good returns. You can win £1,000 worth of its recommended unit trusts each week.

Tarmac's market appeal dries up

In a bumper year for the British construction industry, the market would have ignored anything other than sparkling figures from Tarmac. After all, the company has a finger in all the industry's tastiest pies and a reputation for performance.

A maiden contribution from the US Tarmac-LoneStar was the main reason for the growth from acquisitions - accounting for a third of the 56 per cent profits increase.

Housing expanded by 1,000 units, taking the total to 11,236. Economies of scale and tight cost control contributed to the advance.

Operating margins at 18.4 per cent - up four percentage points - are almost unheard of in a housebuilder, particularly one which builds two-thirds of its homes outside the South-east at an average price of £48,500, below the national average.

Construction margins were wider as the quality of the order book improved. Tarmac is earning rewards from having a higher risk portfolio containing a small amount of management fee work.

The quarry products division suffered from competitive pricing although volumes were firm. Better margins should be earned this year.

The newly hived-off building materials division made good progress. It will continue

to invest in new capacity and search for acquisitions. Tarmac-LoneStar matched budget, contributing more than \$50 million (£27 million) in operating profits. The other US businesses made modest progress in dollar terms but Tarmac is optimistic about 1988.

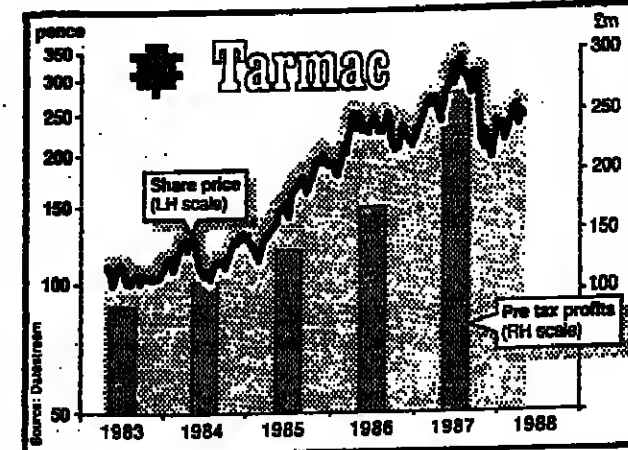
Although the US accounts for more than 16 per cent of operating profits, this falls to 10 per cent of attributable earnings due to higher US tax rates and the LoneStar minority. However, 1987 pretax profits were depressed by £8 million due to exchange rate movements.

Even so, Tarmac must be congratulating itself on its modest exposure to the US, although this may be due to its relative tardiness in joining the acquisition trail rather than by deliberate design.

Gearing stands at 21 per cent, down from 36 per cent in 1986, so if Tarmac wished to step up its acquisition programme, it has the scope.

Tarmac should make £300 million this year, putting the stock on a p/e ratio of 9.5 times. This is not expensive given the group's record and spread of activities.

The shares, however, are not the market's favourites. The strengths that make them attractive to those wanting a well balanced slice of the sector are not so apparent in boom times when investors



think they can maximize their returns by investing directly in other companies active in each of Tarmac's seven sectors.

Ratners

The transformation of Ratners Group from a sleepy family firm to the world's largest jewellery chain has taken less than five years.

The huge growth in size and profitability has, however, left the market somewhat sceptical. After more than doubled profits for three consecutive years, there are now concerns about saturation point being reached in Britain, where Ratners already has 20 per cent of the market.

The company has no such worries. It believes it can go to 50 per cent through taking on the none too hot competition

in a very fragmented market. The independents' share of the market - now about 42 per cent - has been crumbling and looks set to crumble further.

Ratners' target of 1,000 British outlets will be reached in the next two years, but profit growth should continue to come through from the benefits of centralized buying and distribution. The company is already flexing its buying muscles on a joint UK/US basis and earning very handsome discounts as a result.

It is also managing to add sales at an impressive pace. Last year the Ratners chain achieved a like for like sales increase of 25 per cent and H Samuel achieved more than 38 per cent.

The main expansion, however, will be centred on the US. Yesterday's acquisition

comes after two American buys last year and looks certain to be followed by more. The American jewellery industry is equally fragmented and Ratners is already grabbing market share through fierce price cutting and greater efficiency.

More American acquisitions should not lead to further share issues after two rights issues last year, but the nagging doubt remains. Yesterday's chosen instrument was the highly popular convertible preference share.

This year Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the stockbroker, expects Ratners to make £77 million. The prospective p/e ratio of 10.4, on shares down 5p at 258p, is at an 8 per cent discount to the market.

With the vital Christmas season still a long way off, there is no immediate prospect of a rerating. There is also little downside in the shares at these levels.

FR Group

FR Group's 31.5 per cent increase to pretax profits underbought market expectations and the shares dropped 27p to 252p.

At the operating level profits rose 13.6 per cent, but the boost came from a £5 million interest contribution from unspent rights issue proceeds. The company had just over £50 million in the bank at the

year end, offset by \$25 million borrowings in the US. FR is looking to spend its cash pile and has six potential acquisitions in its sights in the UK, US and Europe. It is keeping within the broad area of manufacturing and engineering where there is synergy with the present defence, aerospace and electronics equipment supply operations.

With 50 per cent of its business defence related, FR has suffered with other defence contractors from Ministry of Defence ordering delays and cancellations. The best performances in the group came from FR Aviation and WES, which makes containers for the aerospace industry. Alan Cobham Engineering continued to be disappointing, with profits lower despite higher turnover, because of fierce competition.

In the US profits from Stanley Aviation were reduced on translation by £200,000 due to the dollar's weakness. Carlton Components, bought for \$30 million last summer made only a nominal contribution

Despite American turnover rising to an estimated £25 million this year from £15 million last year, the dollar borrowings give the company a good hedge against a stronger pound.

Pretax profits this year are expected to grow by about 20 per cent. The shares are trading on a fairly flat historic p/e of 13.

STOCK MARKET

Courtaulds leaps on dawn raid hopes

Courtaulds, Britain's biggest textile group, is shaping up to become the next takeover target of an overseas predator, judging by the flurry of activity in after-hours trading last night which added £132 million to its stock market value.

The share price ended the day a hefty 35p higher at 385p, valuing the entire company at about £1.5 billion as almost 7 million shares changed hands. Talk in the market claims that Dupont, the US textile group, is about to launch a dawn raid on the company. Word is it is ready to pay up to 450p a share for a near 15 per cent stake.

During the last account, Courtaulds was the subject of intense takeover speculation with Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the broker, reported to be a heavy buyer of the shares. There were even suggestions that it had managed to build a 3 per cent holding on behalf of one of its clients. Hanson is also reported to have held stake in Courtaulds for some time.

Courtaulds has built up a strong following in the City under the leadership of Sir Christopher Hogg, its chairman, after shaking off the effects of the recession a few years ago. Sir Christopher was unavailable for comment last

night. But one leading broker commented: "I would be surprised if a dawn raid materialized. The story is all around the market. It's hardly the best way to start a buying operation of that size."

Analysts are looking for pretax profits next month to show an increase of £18.9 million to £220 million.

Bid fever gripped the rest of the market which was cheered by the £2.1 billion offer for Rowntree from Nestlé. Sentiment was also bolstered by a cheerful survey from the Confederation of British Industry.

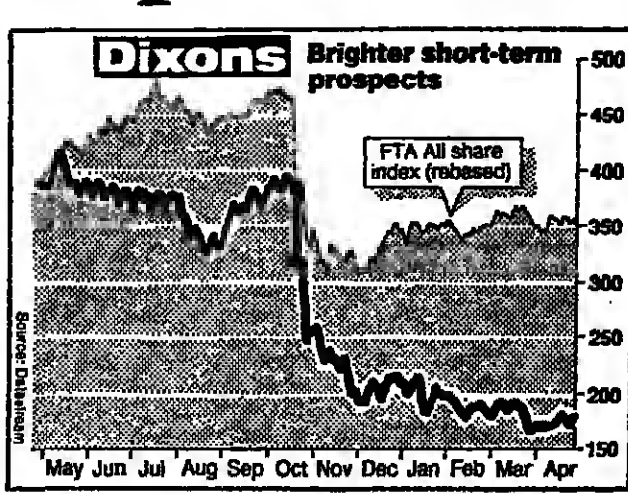
Share prices closed at their best levels of the day with the FT-SE 100 index again crossing the 1,800 mark. It closed 23.2 up at 1,800.8 despite continuing worries about the latest trade figures expected this week. The narrower FT index of 30 shares also finished higher, up 18.0 at 1,431.3 following another firm start to trading on Wall Street.

But government securities spent another lacklustre session with prices at the longer end of the market finishing 2 1/2 lower as hopes of an early cut in interest rates continued to recede.

Dixons Group, the electrical retailer, which recently announced plans for a listing on the Tokyo stock exchange at the end of the month, rose 4p to 178p on a thin volume of 438,000 shares.

Mr Zak Keshavjee, stores analyst at SBCI Savory Millin, reckons the shares are a buy.

He believes that Dixons is one of the best-managed retail companies in the sector despite the setback last year. Mr



Stanley Kalms, the chairman, has effectively reassumed frontline control and will direct operations. The group is re-tuning its

Frederick Cooper is expected to launch a bid today for Lorin Electronics, the USM-quoted group, suspended on Monday at 160p. Dealers are talking of a bid of about 240p a share but Mr Bob "Big Bear" Morton is unlikely to join the bidding. He says the price is too high.

trading formula and during the trough of the consumer electrical replacement cycle, he predicts an annual profits growth of 15 per cent per annum rising sharply to 30 per cent-plus in the early 1990s when the sub-sector will be the fastest growing in retailing.

He forecasts that the group will reveal current year pretax profits of £102.5 million in July and expects £120 million for next year. He also reckons

that the prospective p/e of 9.3 times ignores a predictable and exciting replacement cycle. The shares are expected to rise to 250p on a year's view.

Two newcomers to the market made a satisfactory start to trading. Dagenham Motors, the Ford dealer, placed at 110p on the main market by Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, opened at 120p and during the course of a moderate turnover eased to 115p before closing at 116p - a premium of 6p.

Moorfield Estates, the commercial and residential property developer in Yorkshire and the West Midlands placed at 120p on the Unlisted Securities Market by Strauss Turnbull, the broker, advanced to 131p before finishing at 126p, also an opening premium of 6p.

Fisons, the drugs, scientific instruments and horticulture group, which was a strong last week following favourable notices from Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Citicorp Scrim-

geour Vickers, the broker, rose another 1p to 257p on turnover of more than 2.3 million shares.

Mr Paul Woodhouse, analyst at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, said the presentation planned for today at which Dr Ed Barnard of the Sloan Kettering Institute of New York, who has been involved in the clinical trials on Pentamidine, Fisons' drug used for treating Aids-related pneumonia, had been postponed.

But Mr Barnard will be attending a seminar in Paris on Friday with other medical experts who have been studying Pentamidine. Mr Woodhouse and other Fisons followers are still hoping for some bullish reviews.

The food sector responded positively to the news that Nestlé had swapped Jacobs Suchard, its Swiss rival, by launching its unwelcome offer for Rowntree, the Aero, KitKat, Smarties and Rolo chocolate group.

Rowntree soared 178p to 928p - well above the 890p-a-share bid terms offered by Nestlé. James Capel, the broker, was reported to be an aggressive buyer of the stock cum the 10.5p dividend. More

than 26 million shares changed hands. Dealers were not surprised by the Nestlé move and were looking forward to see what sort of response it will draw from Suchard who recently acquired a near 15 per cent stake in Rowntree at 630p per share.

One dealer suggested that Suchard could launch a counter bid, but would possibly be just content to sell its stake at a handsome profit.

Buyers also singled out other companies with a speculative flavour which they hoped could attract the next bid. Cadbury Schweppes was among the names mentioned in reports that General Cinema of the US, which already owns a near 18 per cent stake in the company, will bid for the rest. The shares rose to close 3p higher at 330p following a turnover of more than 25 million shares.

United Biscuits, whose products range from McVitie's to the Pizzalard and Wimpy fast food chains and which recently acquired the Ross Young frozen food business from Hanson for £335 million, was also supported on bid hopes and ended 22p better at 289p.

Ranks Horris Macdonald advanced by 10 to 354p on hopes of a bid from Goodman Fielder of Australia, while Northern Foods closed a further 9p better at 274p on continuing talk of a consortium offer led by Mr John Randall.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

NEW YORK

Dow higher in early trading

(Reuters) - Wall Street share prices were generally higher in early trading yesterday with the blue chips extending small gains.

Brokers related buying to the moderate rise of 2.3 per cent in first-quarter gross national product. However, the GNP report also suggested consumer spending remained strong.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 7.13 to 2,044.43 at one stage when the transport indicator was up 1.94 to \$55.14 and the utilities average just 0.47 higher at 170.52.

Advancing shares led by

TOKYO

Nikkei edges up but caution rules

(Reuters) - Share prices closed slightly higher touching a new high on incentive-backed buying yesterday, but the market mood was cautious with gains tempered by profit-taking, brokers said.

People were looking towards the US first-quarter gross national product figures, Mr Hirofumi Wada, general manager of Okasan Securities, said. "We have been on an

uptrend for three days, and some investors are taking a bit of a break."

The Nikkei average gained 33.32 points, or 0.12 per cent, to close at 27,246.77. It climbed 155.08 points on Monday.

Rising shares almost matched declining issues on volume of one billion shares against 850 million thairchanged hands the previous day.

Bank are weak, that isn't really compensated by Mannesmann gaining DM1," he said, referring to recent sessions where most of the buying has been bargain-hunting among less actively traded shares.

The Commerzbank 60-share index, calculated at mid-session, fell to 1,361.1 from 1,376.9 on Monday. The Börsen-Zeitung 30-share in-

declining issues by a two-to-one margin. Tandem Computers gained 1 1/2 to 184. Analysts said it rose on higher March-quarter earnings.

Leading union contracts negotiated between January and March showed an average increase of 2.1 per cent in the first year of the wage deals, the Labour Department said in Washington.

FRANKFURT

Prices ease as buyers stay away

(Reuters) - West German share prices eased in quiet trading as lack of investor interest weighed on a frustrated market, dealers said.

"It's dead quiet. The prices can only go down when there's so little interest," one dealer said. "There's no incentive for investors to buy."

When the big three (Daimler, Siemens and Deutsche

Bank) are weak, that isn't really compensated by Mannesmann gaining DM1," he said, referring to recent sessions where most of the buying has been bargain-hunting among less actively traded shares.

The Commerzbank 60-share index, calculated at mid-session, fell to 1,361.1 from 1,376.9 on Monday. The Börsen-Zeitung 30-share in-

dex ended at 292.28 after 293.95 the previous day. Deutsche Bank managed to edge 50 pfennigs higher to DM411.50 but Commerzbank was unchanged at DM227.30 and Dresdner fell DM1.80 to DM243.20.

Siemens softened DM1.70 to DM343.40, AEG edged 30 pfennigs lower to DM204.70 and Nixdorf fell DM3.10 to DM505.70.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for stock symbols and prices. Includes sections for Dow Jones, Nikkei, and Canadian prices.

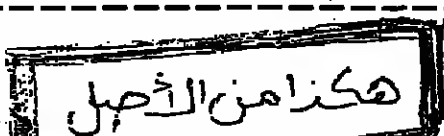
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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Camot trebles £538,000' and 'High-f spread his win'.

Ratners pays \$60m for US chain as profits soar 132%

By Alison Eadie
Ratners Group, Britain's leading jewellery chain, is spending \$60 million (£32 million) on the acquisition of Osterman's Inc, a US specialty retail jewellery chain with 56 outlets which has its headquarters in Toledo, Ohio.

The acquisition follows the purchase last year of Sterling and Westhall in the US and takes the number of Ratners' American outlets to 274, operating in 31 states.

A further 37 new stores will be opened in America this year and more US acquisitions are planned.

Ratners yesterday posted a 132 per cent increase in pretax profits to £52.7 million, on turnover up 128 per cent at £360.2 million.

The US acquisitions contributed £14 million. Excluding these, the British operations increased their profits by 48 per cent.

Mr Gerald Ratner, the chairman and managing director, said the group still had a long way to go both in expanding in America and extracting greater profits in Britain.

He said that despite reports of a downturn in consumer confidence in the US, the right retail formula would do well in any climate.

The American operations surpassed expectations with Sterling significantly exceeding the 1987-88 profit forecast it made when it was acquired. Westhall's integration into Sterling has been completed



'Long way to go': Gerald Ratner in the City yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

and Ratners is confident that by the last quarter of this year Westhall should be achieving the same level of turnover and operating profit per store as the Sterling outlets.

In Britain, expansion continued, bringing the total number of group outlets to 735. H Samuel outlets rose by 29 to 364 and a further 50 openings are planned for this year.

The Ratners chain opened 56 new outlets and plans a further 25 this year.

Mr Ratner said the group was benefiting from economies of scale and the joint buying for US and British operations.

The more we buy the bigger the discounts, Mr Ratner said. Last year Ratners sold nearly £80 million worth of diamonds.

Fully-diluted earnings per share, after two rights issues last year, rose by 43 per cent to 21.73p. The total dividend was increased by 25 per cent to 5p.

COMMENT David Brewerton Rowntree, too sweet for Nestlé to ignore

The medieval calm of York was always destined to be shattered by a bid for Rowntree: it was only a matter of when. And how much.

The timing of the £2.1 billion Nestlé offer has been dictated not by Nestlé, nor even by Rowntree, but by the dawn raid from Jacobs Suchard two weeks ago. Those who sold out in the dawn raid are already regretting doing so, but their loss of 230p a share is minor compared with the consequences for Rowntree, which has been placed on the international auction block with no obvious means of escape.

Herr Helmut Maucher, managing director of Nestlé, was in London to explain that hostile takeovers are not the usual Nestlé route to growth. He and his board think of co-operation rather than confrontation and of persuasion rather than pre-emption. But when Jacobs Suchard set the Swiss rolling towards a full bid, Nestlé was bound to move. If it comes to a battle decided on muscle, Nestlé is bound to win. It is bigger, stronger and has a depth of resources which few can match.

The softly, softly approach is an admirable method of achieving expansion by acquisition, when it comes off. But Herr Maucher is probably rethinking his strategy following the Jacobs Suchard raid which put Rowntree into play. Nestlé had been courting and talking for a year; it has prepared in-depth studies, and Herr Maucher has met Kenneth Dixon, Rowntree's chairman. Nestlé was prepared to do a deal which fell far short of a takeover. Until Suchard acted, Nestlé had bought no Rowntree shares. It had in mind Rowntree joining the family, not a corporate kidnapping.

But when Suchard moved, even the long-term Nestlé had to make a short-term move. The battle is between the two Swiss companies, both dominated by German management styles. Suchard's acquisition of Rowntree would have changed the balance of power in the European food business, and Nestlé felt bound to act. "I could say we have been forced into this," Herr Maucher admitted yesterday.

Rowntree should have been able to read the signs but did not. Even after the Suchard raid, had it been prepared to align itself with a strong partner, through an exchange of interests or joint ventures, it could have retained a degree of independence and avoided a battle. Its delay has cost it a great deal in terms of the price it will have to pay to win.

Mr Dixon and the Rowntree management have nailed their colours firmly to the mast of continuing independence, but unless the Monopolies Commission is brought into the act, it is hard to measure their chances of success as anything more than remote. That is, of course, a shame: not for xenophobic reasons (although we should not forget that Nestlé has insulated itself from foreign takeover by its mix of registered and bearer shares) but because Rowntree is a company which does have the potential to grow into a true multi-national.

As for the potential counter-bidders, they must be few and far between. Three-quarters of the value of the Nestlé bid is for the goodwill attaching to the Rowntree business, rather than tangible assets. That will be written off, for the Nestlé balance sheet contains no goodwill element, but there are few companies which have the stomach to write

off £1.5 billion of goodwill in a single bit. There are, however, some, and there are not many companies as sweet as Rowntree still available for purchase. Nevertheless, Rowntree is not the only British company listed for possible action by Nestlé. There is another major strategic move in the preliminary planning stage: it is not Cadbury Schweppes.

The bid comes at a useful moment in the Rowntree calendar for, four months into the year and with the important Easter season behind it, the company has a good idea of where it is going in the current year and will be in a position to make a credible forecast. But that said, it is hard to see the management coming up with a figure which would make the shares worth in excess of the 890p price except in a bid, where brands command a premium. In everyday stock market valuations, food companies stand at earnings multiples which barely reach the teens.

And it will be difficult, too, for Rowntree to play the Pilkington card which defeated BTR: Nestlé's thinking is so dedicated to long-term growth that even interim financial statements are banned within the group, and Nestlé will not list its shares on any stock exchange which insists on financial reports more often than once a year.

Rowntree does deserve its independence, but against a bid which offers shareholders the chance to double their money, it faces a titanic struggle.

Maestro's magic

Privatisation has been sound economics and brilliant politics. But although the show still has some way to run the question has begun to arise of what to do for an encore.

At a conference organized by the Institute for International Research, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Norman Lamont, emphasized yesterday the tremendous scope the Government sees, as well as selling state enterprise to the private sector, for inviting the private sector into areas traditionally run by the state.

It is not money which the Government is seeking. With the Budget in surplus the Treasury can raise all the money it wants, generally at finer rates than any private sector borrower. Instead, it is looking, in Mr Lamont's words, for "the private sector's ideas, its management skills, its enterprise, its flexibility and its responsiveness to incentive and risk".

This is surely the right emphasis. There is no point in using private funds simply in order to reclassify public spending as private. The touchstone must be cost-effectiveness.

That should still leave enormous scope for greater private participation within the existing £150 billion of public spending. Contracting out is much less of a habit in Government than in private industry. Major infrastructure projects like the Dartford crossing which are revenue-producing can often be run more cost-effectively by the private sector than by Government. The review of the Health Service, now under way, is explicitly concerned with bringing in more commercial skills including perhaps privately-run hospitals.

The Government has put up a sign: "open to ideas." Success in importing private sector skills into large areas of the public sector would be just as important an achievement as the privatization programme itself.

CWS lifts returns by 27% to £17m

By Rosemary Ungsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

The Co-Operative Wholesale Society boosted profits before tax and dividend by 27 per cent to £17.5 million for the year ending January 9, 1988 — an increase of £3.7 million over the previous year.

Sales showed a 1 per cent rise, less than the rate of inflation, up from £2,375 million to £2,402 million. A growth in retail sales of £57 million was offset by an £18 million sales decrease in the production and property division, where loss-making parts of the business were removed.

The profits increase follows a management reshuffle dividing the society's activities into two trading divisions. On sales to retail societies — half the society's business — the main criterion is to recover costs — services made an increased loss because of greater spending on new computer systems and a national advertising campaign to strengthen the Co-Op brand image.

"The bulk of the profits came from farming, manufacturing and property," said Sir Dennis Landau, the chief executive. These activities contributed to a division trading profit of £29.2 million against £25.7 million.

More than 1,000 retail outlets have been converted into convenience stores, although Sir Dennis said plans to increase the number of franchises had not taken off as fast as the society had thought. He said it intended to make factories more efficient, increase profits from the property portfolio, and improve distribution and services to retail societies.

The Co-Op Bank, which reports its results separately, was growing in its sector, he said. All branches are open from 9.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. The Co-Op Visa card has been adopted as a store card by 30 societies.

Inflation fears on US growth

From Bailey Morris Washington

The US economy grew by a moderate 2.3 per cent in the first quarter of the year after strong growth of 4.9 per cent in the final quarter of 1987, prompting a negative reaction in markets which saw the new data as evidence that growth remained on an upward, potentially inflationary course.

A careful review of the preliminary figures suggested that consumer spending, which had dipped sharply after the stock market crash in October, was again strong. Final sales, which mirror demand, rose by 2.6 per cent in the first quarter after a 0.9 per cent gain in the fourth quarter of 1987. Personal consumption expenditures also rose sharply, by 3.8 per cent.

The first quarter growth was in line with market expectations but analysts said that it did not dispel fears that the US Federal Reserve Board may soon be forced to raise interest rates.

BET's Argus goes under the hammer

By Martin Waller

BET, the industrial services group, is auctioning Argus Press Holdings, which publishes a total of 320 magazines, yearbooks and local newspapers.

The move is part of BET's focus on its core business of industrial and support services. Last week it announced the sale of Rediffusion Simulation to Hughes Aircraft for £151 million.

Of the 150 magazines printed by Argus, *Slimming* is best known, with a monthly circulation of about 250,000. Argus also owns the South London Press group of local papers and a range of consumer and business titles.

A memorandum will go out next week to potential purchasers, who will be expected to sign confidentiality agreements. In another four weeks or so further details, including the results for the year to April 2, will be available, and they will be asked for non-binding offers.

The sale will command a hefty rarity premium and is expected to raise more than £200 million.

Sales revenues for the last financial year are estimated by the vendors at £138 million, excluding Burlington Publishing, which was sold to Associated Newspapers for an undisclosed sum last month. Analysts are estimating trading profits at £18 million, up from £14 million last time.

Negotiations are expected to last until the early summer, especially if the four separate divisions are sold to different purchasers. BET has said it will not contemplate a more substantial break-up.

The group says the selection of eventual purchasers will depend both on price and on their plans for Argus staff.

Once the Argus and Rediffusion deals have gone through the group will be cash positive, a spokesman said. But this did not mean it was priming itself for one big acquisition to its chosen field of support services, he added.

Camotech trebles to £538,000

By Michael Tate

Camotech, the maker of aircraft seats for British Airways, Cathay Pacific and supplier of air-cleaning parts for Ford and Rover cars, trebled profits in the six months to end-February, from £132,000 to £538,000.

Earnings per share rose to 5p against 1.1p and the interim dividend is increased from 0.686p a share to 1p.

Mr Peter Cormack, the chairman, expects just as strong a performance in the second half, he says the group remains "in a quiet but hungry" state. It must, however, wait another year before it can return to the USM from the third market.

£1.94m Kitty Little placing

By Joe Joseph

Kitty Little, a Stoke company that designs, makes and markets decorative toys, car and shoe fresheners, was launched on the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday via a placing of £1.94 million new shares at 90p each, valuing the fast-growing group at £8.5 million.

Kitty Little's products sell through high street department stores and supermarkets, with Boots — Kitty Little's largest customer — accounting for 41 per cent of last year's sales of £4.13 million. Exports, which went to more than 20 countries, swallowed up 17 per cent of turnover.

The £1.575 million net raised by the share placing will be used to provide increased working capital and acquisitions for the group, which



Fresh on the market: Graham Webster, the chairman made pretax profits in the year to January 30 of £846,000. Yesterday's placing by Laurence Prust, the broker, represents 20 per cent of the company's enlarged share capital. Mr Graham Webster, chairman, will hold 71.5 per cent of the enlarged capital, with the remaining 8.5 per cent held by other board members. None of the existing shareholders sold shares in the placing.

IN BRIEF Cosalt turns in £1.3m

More than doubled pretax profits of £1.3 million in the six months to the end of February from Cosalt, the ship's chandler and caravan maker, up from £563,000 last time. Have been accompanied by a 1p rise in the interim dividend to 2.5p.

BDA first

In its first year as a public company, BDA Holdings, the property and professional construction services consultant, reported an 11 per cent rise in pretax profits to £1.1 million. Sales rose from £3.9 million to £4.6 million. Earnings per share fell from 9.2p to 8.4p in the 12 months to end-January. A final dividend of 1.5p was declared making a total of 2.5p for the year.

Dencora plan

Dencora, the property investment and development group, more than doubled taxable profits from £1.82 million to £4.06 million last year on turnover of £22.4 million. The company has acquired a 14-acre site in Ashford, Kent — the site of the Channel Tunnel terminal — which it intends to develop for light industrial and high technology use.

Casket up

Casket, the Manchester clothing distributor which took over the similar Kingsley & Forester business late last year, increased pretax profits, on a merger-accounted basis, by 26 per cent to £3.03 million in the six months to December. Turnover rose to £52.24 million, from £49.28 million. The half-way dividend is stepped up to 1.2p from 1.0p.

Plumb soars

Plumb Holdings, the shop-fitter whose clients include Burton and Marks and Spencer, almost doubled pretax profits from £1.45 million to £2.88 million in the year to January 30. Turnover grew by £22 million to £48.9 million. There is a final dividend of 3p making a total of 3p last year.

Property rise

Scottish Metropolitan Property, the Glasgow investment property group, reported a marginal increase in pretax profits in the half year to February 15 from £3.7 million to £3.8 million. Net revenues grew by 20 per cent to £5.5 million. An interim dividend of 2p per share was declared, up from 1.9p last year.

High-flyer spreads his wings

Mini-conglomerate Cresta Holdings, set up by Belfast man Brian O'Connor in the Isle of Man three years ago and now publicly quoted, has scored an unlikely coup in luring Civil Service high-flyer and fellow Ulsterman John McAllister away from the chief executive's post at the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board. Widely tipped, in time, to become head of the NI Civil Service, which he joined 24 years ago, McAllister, aged 46, had had a glittering career there. As a result there has been, I hear, genuine surprise in Belfast business circles this week after the announcement of his departure, and even greater surprise yesterday when he finally disclosed what his new job would be. It appears he will become chairman and chief executive of Cresta's Ulster subsidiary, which, like its parent, spans financial services, corporate communications, construction and property, care of the elderly and sheltered housing, as well as retail garages. Although a promising little company — it has net assets of £6.6 million and recently notched up profits of just under £1 million — it is nevertheless an unlikely setting for a man whom talent-spoilers had already marked down for a "K".

Trading places THE TIMES CITY DIARY Streak of bad luck

Fresh from a debut on US cable news, where he was holding forth about the British stock market, Howard Appleby, New York-based salesman for London broker Hoare Govett is, I hear, about to have further exposure forced upon him. Throughout the past fortnight or so, as speculation of a bid for Rowntree mounted, he was adamant that nothing would come of it. So much so that he promised clients he would drop his trousers on Park Avenue if a takeover bid did materialize. Even after Suchard's dawn raid, Appleby, aged 28, stuck to his guns, saying the Swiss group would never launch a full bid. He further vowed that if a third party entered the fray he would run naked down Park Avenue between 52nd Street and 72nd — past HG's Manhattan office.

Staff at Consolidated Gold Fields are clearly touchy about their new head office address. A colleague, confirming an appointment there, said: "See you at King Charles Street." The reply was barked: "I am not a spaniel. The address is Charles II Street."

Extrusion clause? All 36 showgirls who wear £1m worth of costumes in Harold Fielding's *Ziegfeld*, which opened at the London Palladium last night, have contracts stipulating that they will be weighed once a week, and must stay the shape they were when fitted if they are to keep their parts.

My goodness! The predators have been at the chocolates!



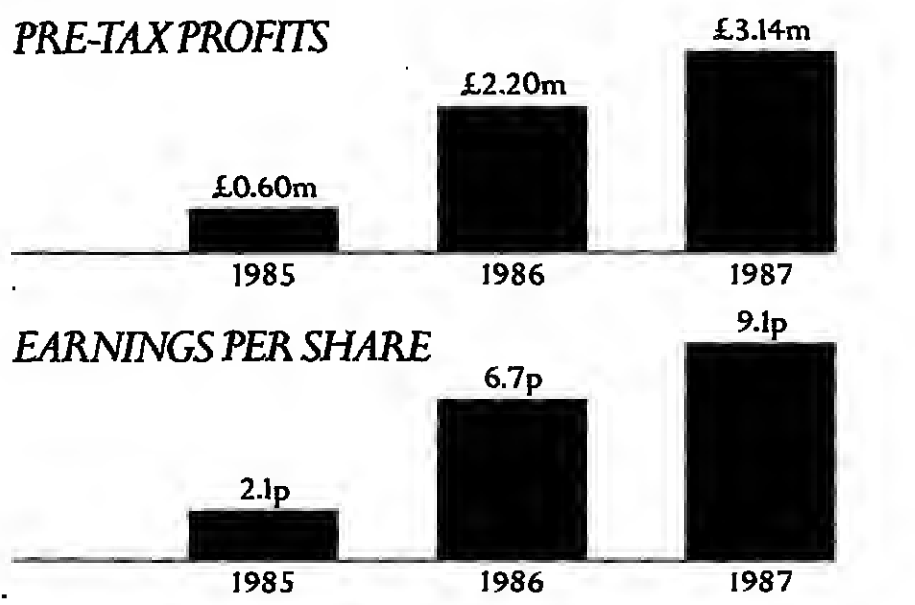
Carol Leonard

Goldfingers

Where would you find the biggest board of gold in the world? The vaults of the Bank

WORCESTER

Worcester Group plc — the fully listed domestic central heating specialists who are the UK's leading manufacturers of 'combi' gas-fired boilers under the 'Heatslave' trademark.



Pre-tax profits for 1987 up by 42%. Earnings per share show 36% increase. Total dividend per share up by 43%.

"Trading conditions in all our subsidiary companies are particularly good and, with continuing strong demand for our range of 'combi' boilers, we can look forward to another excellent performance by the Group in 1988."

Cecil Duckworth,
Chairman & Chief Executive,
WORCESTER GROUP PLC
A copy of the group's latest Annual Report can be obtained by writing to: The Secretary, Worcester Group plc, Navigation Road, Diglis, Worcester WR5 3DG.

ies up
year end, offset by £25 million borrowings in the US.
FR is looking to spread its cash pile and has six potential acquisitions in its sights in the UK, US and Europe.
of manufacturing and engineering where there is a synergy with the present defence and aerospace and electronics equipment supply operations.
With 50 per cent of its business defence related, FR is a defence contractor with a long history of Defence contracts.
The best performance in the group came from FR Aviation and WES, which makes the 530 million last summer and only a nominal contribution.
Despite American turnover rising to an estimated £1 billion this year from £700 million last year, the debt borrowings give the company a good hedge against a sharp fall in the dollar.
Pretax profits this year are expected to grow by about 10 per cent. The shares are trading on a fairly full basis at 13.

than 26 million has changed hands.
Dealers were not surprised by the Nestlé move and are looking forward to see what comes of the bid.
One dealer suggested that Suchard could launch a counter bid, but would probably be just content to take a stake at a handsome price.
Buyers also singled out other companies with a similar flavour which they hoped could attract the bid.
Cadbury Schweppes is among the names mentioned in reports that General Foods of the US, which owns a near 18 per cent stake in the company, will bid for the shares.
United Biscuits, its products range from McVitie's to the Fruit and Wipps fast food etc. and which recently acquired the Ross Young from its business from Hanson for £115 million, was also reported on bid hopes at 20p.
Ranks Horis Malvern advanced by 10 to 38p after a bid from General Foods of Australia, the Northern Foods division bid 5p better at 27p.
Michael Clark
Geoffrey Post

WALL STREET

Main financial table containing various market data, including stock prices, company names, and financial metrics. It is organized into multiple columns and rows, with sub-sections for different market segments.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities, listing company names, share prices, and other financial details.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates, including sterling spot and forward rates, dollar spot rates, and money market data.

THIRD MARKET

Table of third market trading data, including various market indicators and prices.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures, listing contract types, prices, and market movements.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices, including metals, grains, and other goods, with their respective market values.

WCRS in second French purchase

By Martin Waller
WCRS Group, the fast-expanding advertising and communications agency, is moving further into the French market with the acquisition of SGGM, which claims to be Europe's largest independent media buying group, for a maximum of £77.3 million.

The move, which was signposted in March when WCRS said it was in talks with the French company, follows last September's acquisition of a 49 per cent stake in the Group Belier agency in France. The deal needed the blessing of the French Treasury, which was given only last week.

The complex consideration package involves an initial payment of FF688.7 million (£64.4 million), which can be varied once the French group's earnings for the three years to June 1989 are known.

A further 11.765 per cent of this payment is deferred, is due after June 1991, but only if the group achieved a 15 per cent compound growth rate per annum over the previous three years in its post-tax profits.

The acquisition is funded by a long-term bank loan of £64 million, arranged with a syndicate of banks, with a further £26 million available, if appropriate.

SGGM, which claims a 20 per cent share of the French television, radio, cinema and magazine market for media buying, draws 25 per cent of its turnover from outside France.

The present management will continue to exercise day-to-day control of the business, while keeping half the equity.

Mr Charles Stern, the WCRS finance director, said the move into the Continent had in part been prompted by the ending of trade barriers in 1992 and the continuing deregulation and fast growth rate of European media.

There was also the trend towards pan-European media outlets such as satellite television.

"At this stage the French side is only very small, but we're looking for growth in the future," he added.

Eurotunnel chief puts the case for a special high-speed train service

On the right rails for Europe

By Joe Joseph
Unless a dedicated, high-speed rail line is built to funnel traffic through the South of England towards the Channel Tunnel, Britain's business community, tourists and conservationists risk undermining the benefits promised by the cross-Channel rail link, planned to open in 1993.

Mr Alastair Morton, the British co-chairman of Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium building the tunnel, gave this warning last night. He said that, without such a line, incentives to stay on the roads around London and Kent would be the butt of continuous motorway building or dangerous and uneconomic congestion on the roads as well as in the air.

Delivering the annual Henry Ford II lecture at the Cranfield School of Management, Mr Morton predicted that unless British Rail and Parliament improved the rail infrastructure in the South-east, the business community would not be fully hooked into the European rail system.

It might then lose some benefits offered by the tunnel for freight transport economics and inventory management, and would be robbed of the full opportunities of the single European market in 1992.

"The opportunity lies in rail," said Mr Morton, "the opportunity to avoid the devastation of Kent in the national interest, and also the opportunity to take our full place in the emerging physical structure of Europe."



Warning note: Alastair Morton spoke of the danger of uneconomic traffic congestion

Main machines near completion

By David Young
The two main boring machines being built to create the undersea rail routes for the Channel Tunnel have cleared the design stage.

Most fabrication work for the huge machines is complete. Final machining, including turning work on one of the largest vertical lathes in the world, is taking place at the

Chesterfield works of Markbams, one of the partners in the joint venture company producing the machines.

The machines will build and grout the tunnel linings and lay the rails and the electrical and water services as they advance along the tunnel.

Each is 220 metres long and backed by a 205-metre support train. They will contain fire-

fighting foam systems, and ventilation and dust suppression equipment, and are designed to move forward at a rate of six metres an hour, removing 1,300 tonnes of spoil as they go.

The boring machines have been designed by the Robbins Company in the US. Markbams is a Trafalgar House company.

Explaining that "commercial structure follows transport structure," he added: "Without the tunnel, Great Britain would have come to look somewhat like South Wales would look without the Severn Bridge and the M4 connecting it to the larger market in England, but by links of increasingly desperate congestion."

"With the tunnel, Great Britain can be fully hooked into the rail system. Manchester to Paris in six hours or so for the executive; Milton Keynes to Geneva by sleeper for the skier will be possible. London will hold its own as a financial capital, instead of declining to also-ran."

"With the tunnel, British industry can have full access

to economics in inventory control - 24 to 36 hours off deliveries to northern Italy - reliably permitting Britain to participate in the rationalization of assembly and storage without loss of design and manufacturing demand on our workpeople."

Outlining the alternatives to a high-speed rail line, Mr Morton said: "Runways are a

Ward appeals on repayment

Mr Thomas Ward, the former Guinness director, yesterday launched an Appeal Court challenge to the ruling that he must pay back the £5.2 million he received from the drinks group.

He claims that the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson was wrong when he ruled in the High Court last year that the payment for his part in the Guinness bid for Distillers was unlawful.

His counsel, Mr Peter-Curry QC, told three appeal judges that the Vice-Chancellor ruled that the payment to Mr Ward, via a Jersey-based company, should have been disclosed to the board but was not.

But Mr Curry said the question was whether there had been authorization for the

payment, and it was "quite clear" there had been.

He submitted that the payment did not have to be disclosed to the board - but even if it did have to be, and was not, that did not make the contract invalid.

Guinness, who sued both Mr Ward and Mr Ernest Saunders, its former chairman, over the payment, is defending the appeal, expected to last three days.

The judges, led by Lord Justice Fox, earlier refused an application by Mr Saunders for a reporting ban on the appeal hearing until after the criminal charges he faces have been heard.

The hearing, in which Mr Saunders is not involved, continues.

Khoo company is suspended in HK

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange has suspended a company controlled by Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puar, the Malaysian financier, for failing to put 25 per cent of its shares in the hands of the public.

The suspension of Estate Finance, a property and share-dealing company, looks set to be the first in a clampdown on listed companies that are more than 75 per cent held by main shareholders.

According to a stock exchange spokesman, there are more than 10 such companies and the listing committee is "studying each case on its merits."

Some companies, such as Ka Wah Bank and Hong Kong Telecommunications, are special cases, he said.

Ka Wah Bank was rescued from collapse in 1986 when CITIC, a Peking-backed corporation, took a 92 per cent stake. It has been told it must reduce its holding to 75 per cent by the end of June, and last week CITIC cut it back to 84 per cent by placing shares with an institutional investor.

Hong Kong Telecommunications was floated on the exchange early this year as a holding company that merged the two Hong Kong subsidiaries of Cable and Wireless. After the flotation, Cable and Wireless still controls 80 per cent of the shares, while the Hong Kong government owns 11 per cent.

However, underwriters have now been appointed to sell off 11 per cent of the communications company, the largest company on the Crown Colony's exchange, to the public.

The stock exchange spokesman said Estate Finance had been approached in September last year and told to comply with the 75 per cent limit.

Tan Sri Khoo and his family jointly own about 60 per cent of Estate Finance's share capital, while the National Bank of Brunei, which is controlled by the Brunei government, owns 30 per cent.

But the shares, which were worth HK\$2.05 before the stock market crash, are now worth just 86 cents, and it appears the main shareholders are not willing sellers at that price.

Acquisition helps CI to double profits

By Martin Waller

CI Group, the acquisition-bungy engineer formerly known as Cooper Industries, saw pretax profits double to £3.01 million in the year to end-January from £1.5 million previously.

The result was boosted by a £700,000 contribution from Bipel, the rubber moulding

machinery maker purchased last August.

Organic profits growth was 18 per cent, held back by a £300,000 trading loss from the Meads Cooper mechanical handling subsidiary, said Mr Cedric Grew, the managing director. This division had since been reorganized and was now trading profitably.

Group turnover rose from

£34.48 million to £39.16 million.

A final dividend of 0.85p increases the year's total to 1.375p, from 1.05p the previous year.

Trading across the group in the present year was buoyant, said Mr Grew, and all companies enjoyed good order levels.

The heavy acquisition pro-

gramme would continue, he pledged, and predicted at least one large acquisition and a couple of smaller "bolt-ons" each year.

Several minor deals were pending, but CI was not talking to anyone of any size.

The contribution from Bipel, which formerly traded on the Unlisted Securities Market and was purchased for £18.4

million, was in line with expectations. Sales to American customers remained high.

CI has close links with fellow engineer Evered Holdings, Mr Ahmed Abdullah, the elder brother of the two joint chairmen at Evered, has a 10 per cent stake, and the CI non-executive chairman, Mr Roy Kettle, is a full-time Evered board member.

Ward Group rises 31.5% to £4.3m

By Our City Staff

The Ward Group, the Yorkshire building components and structural steel company, saw pretax profits rise by 31.5 per cent in 1987, its first full year as a quoted company, from £3.28 million to £4.31 million.

The improvement came in all areas of the group's business, said Mr Nigel Forsyth, the chief executive, although three companies were still being developed last year and made little contribution.

Turnover grew by 27.5 per cent to £75.14 million. The final dividend of 2.8p gives a total for the year of 4.3p, against a potential 3.7p in 1986.

Last year saw further expansion into Europe with the purchase of the Belgian company Chamébel. As a result, this year about half the turnover and a minimum 25 per

Profits up at Walker Greenbank

By Joe Joseph

Walker Greenbank, the industrial mini-conglomerate led by Sir Anthony Jolliffe, the former Lord Mayor of London, is planning to strengthen its grip on the growing market for medicare products as part of its move from mechanical engineering to consumer-related areas.

"Our target is to hit £50 million of turnover in medicare products within five years," said Sir Anthony.

Pretax profits rose 42.3 per cent to £11.1 million, on sales of £93.3 million, in the year to end-January, he reported. A final dividend of 1.75p (1.5p), makes 2.25p for the year.

"Last year was one of consolidation, preparing ourselves to go forward in specific areas - supermarket and store fitting, wall coverings, where we have 56 per cent of the contract wall coverings business in the UK and that business is expanding rapidly; and Wilcomatic," he said.

"At the same time we entered a new area, medicare, which is not bringing in a great deal but we see it as a tremendous growth area."

"The net reorganization costs accounted for £1.5 million out of a total extraordinary cost of £2.1 million.

Protection for deposits payout leaps

The Deposit Protection Board paid out £1.3 million to depositors in failed deposit-taking institutions in the year to the end of February, compared with £720,000 in the previous year.

More than £500,000 of the total was paid to depositors with Consumer Credit Investments.

The board ran a deficit of £835,000 for the year, but this does not include recoveries from liquidators, which rose from £123,000 to £378,000.

The fund ended with a balance of £4.8 million.

GPT video agreement

GEC Plessey Telecommunications, GPT, has signed an agreement with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for ATT to sell its video conferencing equipment for use on ATT networks.

GEC began making the video codecs seven years ago and

BASE LENDING RATES

Table listing base lending rates for various banks and companies, including ABN, Adren & Company, BCCI, Consolidated Crds, Co-operative Bank, C. Hoare & Co, Hong Kong & Shanghai, Lloyds Bank, Nat Westminster, Royal Bank of Scotland, TSB, and Citibank NA.

Advertisement for Ratners jewelry store. Features a diamond ring in a box, a bar chart showing profits from 1984 to 1988, and text describing the company's success. Key figures include pre-tax profits up 152% to £52.7m and EPS up 44% to 21.7p. The bar chart shows profits of £1.3m (1984), £2.1m (1985), £4.4m (1986), £22.7m (1987), and £52.7m (1988).

Advertisement for Anadin pain relief. Text includes "For ASPIRIN pain relief TAKE ANADIN FAST PAIN RELIEF" and "the proven formula".

Financial market data including exchange rates, interest rates, and commodity prices. Includes sections for 'OTHER STERLING RATES', 'EURO MONEY DEPOSITS', 'GOLD', 'MARKETS', and 'COMMODITIES'.

£5m Ewart call after cold store acquisition

By Martin Waller
Ewart, the Belfast property developer formerly known as Ewart New Northern, has acquired West Kent Cold Storage in a deal which gives the vendors a 31 per cent stake in the enlarged company.

At the same time Ewart, whose shares were suspended on Friday pending the reorganization, is making a one-for-one rights issue at 125p to raise about £5.75 million, as much as £5 million of which will go to repay West Kent's bank debts.

Ewart is paying £6 million, in the form of 4.8 million new shares at the rights issue price, for the cold storage operation, which will continue to operate pending future development.

The development - probably residential in the main - will be near Sevenoaks, Kent, close to the M25.

The deal, which already has the support of the two largest shareholders speaking for more than 30 per cent of the company, will be put to an extraordinary meeting on May 18. The shares are likely to remain suspended until then.

If it goes through, Mr Ross Reed, a Northern Ireland accountant who controls the cold storage company, will have a 34 per cent stake

Lone rebel to declare war on Abbey's plan for a flotation

By Maria Scott

Mr Alexander Sandison, a retired scientific librarian, hopes to lead a mutiny against the Abbey National Building Society's plans to become a public company.

Mr Sandison, aged 73, intends to ask directors of the society at its annual meeting in London today to abandon the idea. Alternatively, he believes, members ought to be consulted about whether they want their society to convert before the Abbey goes through the costly exercise of deciding how this will be done.

To convert, the society must secure a 75 per cent vote in favour from 20 per cent of the 4.5 million investors eligible to vote on the formal resolution, when it is eventually tabled. This is still many months away. It must also obtain a majority to a separate ballot of borrowers. In total it will have to muster support from almost 1 million people, not exactly a push-over, it believes.

But Mr Sandison fears it will go through "on the nod" and he argues that opinions should be canvassed now.

"It is going to cost them a lot of money to work out the legal implications of the change and that money is



Doubts about societies diversifying: Alexander Sandison (Photograph: Paul Lovelace)

wasted if this is not what the members want."

Mr Sandison's campaign is at an early stage but he says he will develop it if he has a good response from other members after the meeting.

Building societies were set up by working people during the industrial revolution to finance the building and buying of homes. The idea was not to make a profit but to provide a service and Mr Sandison objects to the departure from this aim.

Today he plans to raise questions about how the priorities of the society's managers would change if they were responsible to shareholders rather than members. He suggests that interest rates charged to investors and those charged to borrowers might become less favourable because of the need to satisfy shareholders with dividends.

Ideally, he says, he would have tabled a special resolution against the plan to convert but the deadline for doing

so had passed by the time the Abbey announced its plan.

Mr Sandison is not among the thousands of people who have applied for one of the Abbey's new current accounts, and he does not have an Abbeylink cash card.

He has grave doubts about the diversification of societies into new areas. "I don't think you can run a 100-yard race, run a marathon and do a high jump simultaneously."

Mr John Ellis, the secretary and general manager of the

Abbey, argues that there would be no point in putting the idea of conversion to members at this stage because the society needs to do a lot more work on the mechanics of conversion so that it can put forward a full proposal.

"We have carried out some market research among members and most would welcome conversion if it meant more services. But by putting a general proposal, it raises more questions than it answers."

Mr Ellis says there have been letters from other members objecting to the idea of conversion but "we haven't had anything like as many as we thought we would get."

This is the first time Mr Sandison has raised his voice publicly against a large financial institution. However, he is not entirely green when it comes to campaigning.

In the Sixties, when the rail system was being drastically pruned under Dr Richard Beeching, Mr Sandison helped lead a campaign against closure of a commuter line on the southern outskirts of London.

"I get involved when I think people are acting foolishly," he says. The Abbey should note that the campaign for the Woodside-Sanderstead line was successful and it stayed open another 15 years.

Opec's aim 'is to prop up prices'

From Our Correspondent, Vienna

Mr Riwana Lukman, the president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, said on the eve of an extraordinary meeting with non-Opec producers that the meeting's primary goal would be to prop up oil prices.

The lasting stability in the oil markets was also of vital importance, he said.

Mr Lukman criticized Britain for not co-operating with Opec producers. But he denied that he had snubbed Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, while in London. Mr Lukman said he would be pleased to meet Mr Parkinson in London in the future.

Opec's five-member pricing committee of ministers from Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Indonesia and Venezuela met yesterday before planned evening sessions with

the seven non-Opec members. Oil analysts said speculation about a "super cartel" was greatly exaggerated. They said it was more likely that a modest step of production cuts by Opec and non-Opec producers would be approved. This, by some estimates, would amount to an aggregate 500,000 barrels per day.

Mr Fergus Macleod, an analyst, with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said: "I don't think any agreement here is likely to be very major." Mr Macleod said any accord would probably be built to last until the June 3 regular meeting of the 13 Opec members, then reviewed and possibly expanded.

The aim of Opec clearly is to stabilize the oil market, which has waxed from a brief high of \$41 per barrel in 1980 to a wane of about \$15 per barrel in recent months.

ALPHA STOCKS

Table with columns: Vol '000, Val '000, and various stock symbols like ADT, Abbey, AEG, etc.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns: First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, For Settlement

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns: EQUITIES, RIGHTS ISSUES, LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

General Accident

Responding to the challenge of a rapidly changing marketplace.



The Rt Hon The Earl of Airlie, KT, GCVO, PC, who was elected chairman of General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc on the retirement of Mr Gordon Simpson in May 1987.

In his first Annual Statement to shareholders, Lord Airlie pays tribute to his predecessor and expresses his sincere thanks to all members of staff for their contribution to the Corporation's achievements in a year in which record profits were produced. He also outlines some of the ways in which General Accident is contributing to the general wellbeing of the communities in which it operates.

Commenting on current trading conditions, Lord Airlie says that the Corporation is seeking to make a progressive and innovative response to a marketplace which is changing rapidly, a commitment which is expressed through the group's new corporate identity introduced earlier this year.

Lord Airlie concludes his remarks by expressing confidence in the future: "I believe the Corporation is well placed to meet the challenges and opportunities that face us in the coming years and with an excellent management team in place I have little doubt that the Corporation's record of progress will continue," he tells shareholders.

The general improvement in conditions reported last year has been maintained and, as more realistic underwriting attitudes prevail, further progress has been achieved. It is to be hoped that the appalling experience of recent years will serve to deter those who may view current profitability as an irresistible invitation to relax the discipline on which the progress now being achieved has been based.

Table with columns: RESULTS '88, 1987, 1986. Rows: General Premiums, Investment Income, Underwriting Loss, Life Profits, Pre-Tax Profit, Attributable Profit, Earnings per Share, Dividend per Share, Assets per Share.

UNITED KINGDOM
The improvement in underwriting performance was maintained in most major accounts, despite the effects of two exceptional weather disasters, and the underlying trend in the UK is positive.

On the Motor accounts, rating increases and firm underwriting reduced the deficit substantially but action to achieve further improvement will continue. Record weather losses on the Homeowners' account make further rate increases inevitable.

A significant contribution to income is anticipated from our investment into estate agencies. The Corporation has maintained its close co-operation with the Department of Transport in the Road Safety Campaign launched in September 1986.

UNITED STATES
We have produced a record operating result and we remain committed to the achievement of further underwriting progress.

EUROPE
A notable advance in results from Europe reflects improvements in the majority of territories.
CANADA
A further satisfactory operating result has been achieved but market conditions are expected to become more difficult.

LIFE
Our life organisation is fully able to give a first class service to all independent intermediaries following the introduction of the Financial Services Act. Several building societies have agreed to place all their life and pensions business with us and this additional source of business, together with that provided by our estate agency outlets, augurs well for the future.

OUTLOOK
Recovery is but the first step towards real progress, and the recovery phase is not yet complete. When it is, we can move on to the more positive stage of advance from a strong base. That is our immediate objective, and we will pursue it aggressively, but only while maintaining our commitment to sound underwriting principles. If the general market approach were to differ from that, and there are just the slightest signs of that tendency, then our policy will be to stand aside. Subject inevitably to the incidence of extreme weather losses, we shall make profit progress in 1988.

FROM THE OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF 1987 BY MR BUCHAN MARSHALL, CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER

Form for requesting a copy of the 1987 Annual Report by returning the coupon to the address below.

To: The Secretary, General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc, World Headquarters, Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.



وكذا من الأعمال

'aim 'is to up prices'

Correspondent, Vienna

The seven non-Opec members of the oil cartel... Oil analysts said... The aim of Opec...

PHA STOCKS

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

RIGHTS ISSUES

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

NON TRADED OPTIONS

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

UNDATED

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

ELECTRICALS

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your... The aim of Opec...

No.	Company	Group	Code	Price
1	London	Motor, Aircraft		
2	New West (ns)	Food, Drink		
3	P&E International	Electrical		
4	Cable Wireless (ns)	Electrical		
5	Ketton	Paper, Print, Adv		
6	Bird (ns)	Industrials A-D		
7	Tarmac (ns)	Building, Roads		
8	Asa New Z	Bank, Discount		
9	Food (ns)	Motor, Aircraft		
10	Pod (ns)	Industrials A-D		
11	McAligan (Altd)	Building, Roads		
12	MY Holdings	Industrials A-D		
13	APV	Industrials A-D		
14	Woolworth (ns)	Drapery, Stores		
15	Smith (WH) 'A' (ns)	Drapery, Stores		
16	Tyson Europe	Oil, Gas		
17	Davidson Pearce	Paper, Print, Adv		
18	Hobart	Property		
19	THORN EM (ns)	Electrical		
20	Thomson	Property		
21	Templeton	Industrials A-D		
22	Goring Kerr	Industrials E-K		
23	Vodafone	Paper, Print, Adv		
24	Norton	Textiles		
25	Hess Motor	Motor, Aircraft		
26	Systech	Industrials S-Z		
27	Drummond	Textiles		
28	Beater PLC (ns)	Industrials A-D		
29	Stratton	Property		
30	Br Petroleum (ns)	Oil, Gas		
31	AAH	Industrials A-D		
32	Haywards Ceramic	Industrials E-K		
33	Armco	Building, Roads		
34	Sandhill Perkin	Building, Roads		
35	Radford	Property		
36	Watson & Philip	Food, Drink		
37	Kelley Ind	Industrials E-K		
38	Barclays (ns)	Bank, Discount		
39	Lucas (ns)	Motor, Aircraft		
40	Dawson	Textiles		
41	Camford Eng	Industrials A-D		
42	Finlay Gp	Building, Roads		
43	Nest (ns)	Drapery, Stores		
44	Sainsbury (J) (ns)	Food, Drink		

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sunday
Dividend							

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Year	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Year	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Year	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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UNDATED

Year	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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INDEX-LINKED

Year	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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BREWERIES

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

CINEMAS, TV

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

DRAPERY, STORES

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Strong gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 25. Dealings end May 6. Contango day May 9. Settlement day May 16. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 30)

Company	Price
Admiral	140
British Airways	130
British Telecom	120
British Waterways	110
British Airways	100
British Airways	90
British Airways	80
British Airways	70
British Airways	60
British Airways	50
British Airways	40
British Airways	30
British Airways	20
British Airways	10

Company	Price
Admiral	1

MEDIA & MARKETING

Adding colour to the weekend

Next week the *Daily Mail* will provide its readers with a national, web-offset, colour tabloid supplement. The *Daily Express* sees this as a response to its monthly Saturday supplement, *dx*, which first appeared on March 26 (though only in the Thames and Television South areas) and took a second bow last Saturday.

OPINION

Dennis Hackett

The *Mail's* decision was first predicted by Andrew Cameron, the *Express* managing director. He said that the *Mail* tabloid would be "imitative", of the same size as *Campaign*, the trade paper, and would be selling advertisements at £20,000 a page.

Imitative is a word he should perhaps have avoided. Nick Lloyd, editor of the *Express* and *dx*, had already attributed *dx's* inspiration to a fashion magazine, *W*. In the event, the size of *dx* was the main similarity, though both represent the publish-and-be-hind syndrome, which assumes that the upper reaches of the socio-economic market are concerned only with polishing their leather Filofaxes, plotting to displace their immediate superiors, or keeping up with new trends.

Even in this respect, *dx* seemed like a tap-dancer playing Hamlet. Its two pages on the glitterati, for whom ABCI under-40s are judged to have an insatiable appetite, appeared to aspire to *Yon* magazine's weekly spread of celebrity pictures. "Headliners". Indeed, *dx* seemed indebted to that magazine for one or two other titles.

There is no reason, you may think, why colour sections should be left to Sunday papers. But for groups such as the *Express* newspapers and *Associated*, there is the consideration that colour advertising is not unlimited, and diverting it to a Saturday supplement would probably affect the Sunday product. There are also Sunday supplements coming from *The People* and the *Sunday Mirror*, and hectic activity in the

magazine field, where new launches have increased competition for advertising. The arrival of *Today* has also helped provoke the stampede to colour.

All these factors, even without the intrusion of the *Mail*, would have hampered *dx's* ambition to go national. The first issue did not indicate enthusiastic response from advertising: out of 16 pages three were for film advertising and one page for opera. These are unlikely to have attracted the full rate of £5,000 a page and would certainly be absent on a national magazine.

The bravura so far for Saturday colour has come from the *Express*. *Associated* points out that the *Mail* has produced nine supplements since October 10. These have been somewhat disparaged by *Express* spokesmen as too tightly targeted to advertising, but may be more financially beneficial.

The *Mail's* May 7 supplement, *Male and Female*, indicates a change of direction, obviously planned to embarrass the *Express*. In addition to its established position as middle-market leader, the *Mail* has the advantage of having seen *dx*. It is hard to imagine how the *Express* could have failed to appreciate that *Associated* would make a massive response. *dx's* softly soiled policy must now be under urgent review.

It is likely that Lord Stevens, festooned with financial roles but with a publishing reputation not yet established, will find a toe-to-toe less enjoyable than Lord Rothermere and Sir David English.

Meanwhile, journalists hopeful of improving their own socio-economic position should note that neither paper has augmented its staff. Money will be tight in the Saturday colour explosion.

Dennis Hackett is a publishing consultant and former magazine and newspaper editor.

Antony Rouse reports on ITN's plans to use the latest cameras, with smaller crews

Back in 1956, when Independent Television News was no more than a lusty infant, there was the Suez invasion. Ronnie Hubbard, an ITN cameraman, was in the full flower of young manhood, and ITN said to him: "Go to Suez with Robin Day." Then they said: "Robin Day will wear a bow tie and you will wear the Vinten Visitone, not forgetting, of course, the 12 volt batteries which power the monster."

Even though Hubbard was a young man, his manly shoulders sagged a bit, because the camera equipment weighed on its own about 30 kilos. Hubbard was being asked to go into battle carrying the equivalent in weight of a 10-year-old child.

As Hubbard retires, ITN management is cooing over the latest generation of camera which it hopes to adopt. These cameras weigh about 7 kilos, the equivalent in weight of a six-month-old baby. Those in use now weigh about 11 kilos.

The new cameras eliminate the need for a sound recorder and in most cases the lighting man. The light which plugs on to the camera is about the size of a cigarette packet. They use microchips instead of glass tubes and are therefore much stronger and can withstand ac-



Lightweight champions: the new Sony one-man operated camera (left) on trial at ITN beside the present camera

TV's future in close-up

They also use special quality half-inch recording tape instead of the current three-quarter inch and can record for twice as long without a recharge. Using a simple lead it can also be plugged into a television set in a hotel bedroom and replay what has been shot. In the same way, the camera can be plugged into the

appropriate socket at a foreign television station and replay its stuff to the home studio via satellite. ITN say the sensitivity of lens approaches that of the human eye.

The cost is about £20,000 a camera. The cost of camera and recorder used at the moment comes to about £33,000. ITN currently uses a reporter and a two-man crew with the occasional lighting man, and a three-man crew in places which are especially difficult like Northern Ireland.

Bloodshed in the BBC lobby

Political staff are the first of John Birt's targets for reform. Kate Finch reports.

When John Birt arrived at the BBC as Deputy Director-General last year, it was his intention to transform news and current affairs. On Monday he secured £5.3 million of extra cash for this year to help him do so. Today he will reveal how he intends to spend the money.

The key policy is more of everything: more correspondents, more current affairs programmes, more managers, more researchers. At the centre of the plan is the establishment of specialist units to cover politics, economics, social affairs and foreign affairs. Generalists are out of favour; specialists the order of the day.

The political unit is already being formed, and the changes will be dramatic. The search is on for new blood, as this week's job advertisements in the Press reveal. Situations vacant include the jobs of managing editor (politics), chief political correspondent (television), chief political correspondent (radio), chief parliamentary correspondent, and political correspondent.

Out will go many of the old and trusted political correspondents. Brian Curteis, Rodney Foster, Noel Lewis, Peter Hill and David Coss all go to different jobs. John Cole stays - but will no longer be in charge.

The new political unit will echo the structure found in quality newspapers. Cor-

respondents will be divided between the gallery, covering debates, and the lobby correspondents, who will concentrate on background research. Political scoops are intended to become the order of the day.

Other plans for politics include extending the existing political research unit, estab-

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RESEARCH POSTS
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 Candidates should have:
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 * Writing and communication skills.
 * An interest in the automotive sector.
 * Knowledge of a foreign language (especially German, French or Japanese).
 * Ability to use a keyboard.
 Applicants with some but not all of these attributes will be considered.
 A more senior appointment may be made carrying greater responsibility for co-ordinating and directing the work of the team. Candidates for the senior position should have a substantial record of research and/or management achievement.
 Salaries will be determined according to experience and qualifications within the scales £8,875 to £13,385 or £12,150 to £16,975 (under review w.a.f. 1 August). Appointments are normally for twelve months, but exceptionally may be offered for a longer initial period. Further particulars are available. (Tel. 0603 614991).
 To apply, please write enclosing your CV and the names and addresses of two referees to Ms L. Morton, Motor Industry Research Unit Limited, 2 Dove Street, Norwich NR2 1DE by Monday, May 16, 1988.

Today
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
 We have a vacancy for a qualified librarian in the newspaper's reference library.
 The successful candidate will have good reference skills interrelated with experience of online retrieval and a positive enthusiasm for current affairs. Energy, adaptability and the ability to work under pressure, but as part of a team, are important in the often hectic atmosphere of a daily newspaper.
 As the library is open six days a week shift work is required.
 Write with full c.v. to:
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 Personnel Manager,
 TODAY,
 70 Vauxhall Bridge Road,
 London, SW1V 2RP.

Sell-through Executive
 Central London
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 The changing dynamics of the home video market and the growth of "sell-through" means we are now looking for a marketing specialist who will be dedicated to developing this part of the business.
 The main areas of your responsibility will be profitability, scheduling, packaging, marketing, selling and distribution. Special emphasis is placed on the ability to develop strategic plans in marketing, merchandising and distribution.
 Reporting to the Managing Director, you will ideally have a good knowledge of the video/home entertainment industry. Retail marketing experience, sales experience in a fmcg environment, together with good inter-personal and negotiating skills will be important assets for you.
 Aged around 35, you will be of the calibre to progress to a more senior management role, matching our development plans.
 Based in Wardour Street, at the heart of the film industry, your achievements and potential will be recognised by a first class salary, car and the usual large company benefits.
 Please write, with your CV and quoting ref: WHV388 to: A Moulton-Barrett, Managing Director, PBD Executive Search & Selection, 68 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LQ.

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 The person appointed will be involved in all aspects of marketing including the development and promotion of the business, this will also involve customer liaison.
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 If you want variety in your life and a good salary then write by 23rd May to:
 Philip Bacon, Assistant Editor,
 LBC, Gough Square, London, EC4P 4LP

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 The fastest growing independent record label and a part of the international, employee owned Rough Trade Group, requires a
BUSINESS MANAGER
 This is a key position in the company and requires someone committed to the aims of Rough Trade, with proven commercial skills and experience in some/all of the following areas:
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 - record or related industries
 - finance
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 Salary up to £25,000; board level input to follow. Applications with full CV, by 6 May 1988 (for interviews following week), to: Business Manager, Rough Trade Records Ltd, Dept T, 61 Colindale Avenue, London, N1.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Selling serials like cornflakes

David Housham on the less glamorous Cannes festival: for world television

Europe's biggest television programme market, MIP-TV, which begins its annual week of hype in Cannes tomorrow, does not usually excite the excitement and glamour of the film festival that follows it into town a couple of weeks later.

The ever-expanding army of MIP participants - 6,000 this year from 1,500 companies and 107 countries - stay in the same four-star hotels and pay the same larcenous bar prices as the Hollywood directors and putting starlets. But they cannot escape turning the international exchange of television programmes into the ugly equivalent of a DIY hypermarket where mini-series, action-adventures, game shows and children's cartoons are sold like cultural chipboard, available by the metre.

MIP is strictly for the business pages. With typical mistimed flair the market is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year even though it is only 24 years since it arrived in Cannes. The justification for this timeslip is that it allows a big silver send-off for the inscrutable French entrepreneur, Bernard Chevry, who has maintained a powerful influence over the market he founded. Last year he sold his Midem organization, which runs a string of French media markets, for £4.9 million to Telso Communications, the commercial arm of the ITV



Period piece for auction: John Buchan's Hannyay (above) and Thames and Initial's Wired company, Television South. It is thought that Chevry will finally step down as president of Midem after the planned gala dinner in his honour this Saturday.

Despite all the activity, there is not usually a great deal of actual selling at MIP - most of the big deals have been pre-arranged and are only launched on a sea of champagne to the Press at the market. MIP's chief function is as a winning, dining, flesh-pressing, palm-greasing, back-slapping talking shop.

The new Telso organizers are promising a greater emphasis on business rather than black-tie this year. Both to reflect the growth of commercial and satellite television in Europe and to attract advertising agencies to MIP. Midem is staging a conference on barter syndication at the market.



slice of advertising air time. At one extreme this can amount to super-endorsement of a most attractive kind for an advertiser: it can make its own programmes (cheaper than commercials) and advertise itself all round them.

One surprisingly eager advocate of barter syndication is BBC Enterprises, which is attending MIP with its aggressively restructured sales force. In 1987, BBC Enterprises signed £7 million worth of sales and co-production deals at MIP.



Mini-series for sale: Sherlock Holmes (above) and Every Breath You Take from Granada

Granada International will be selling both the complete programme and "music modules" from Channel 4's new adult rock show, *Irish*, which is produced by the independent Initial Television.

Thames Television International will be pushing the British cable Children's Channel and a documentary, *Murder: A Piece of Paper*, produced by Philip Whitehead for independent Brook Productions.

The voracious, competitive commercial channels in Europe want two categories of material: reliable product in great quantity to pad out the schedules. I.e. games shows and sitcoms (which they get from America); and second, spectacle - a glitzy mini-series that can be promoted for high ratings two nights a week.

Granada International's head of sales, Wendy Stebbings, says: "People are either looking for good four-hour mini-series or 30 hours of a series, rather than the 13-hour series British TV has traditionally made."

Changes in the British industry are reflected in the increasing amount of independent product being pushed by the ITV sales

so-called comparative advertising - in which a claim is made against a competitor - is illegal, and the media can be prosecuted for carrying it.

Germany also puts a ceiling on the value of gifts given away with products that is roughly half that allowed by other states.

Advertisers whose television campaigns include children can at least take solace, however, in the removal of one of the more bizarre restrictions in force until some five years ago in Austria - where dwarves had to be cast instead of children.

BYLINES

Maxwell across Europe

Mirror Group Newspapers has for the moment abandoned plans for two new daily papers: a middle-market colour broadsheet, *Newsday*, and a metropolitan free paper, *The Londoner*, although research showed that *Newsday* had a potential circulation of nearly a million.

Sources at the company say they have been dropped in favour of Robert Maxwell's latest project, an English-language European paper. A team of French newspaper designers and sub-editors has been in London for the past fortnight working on dummies for the paper, scheduled for launch in January. They are injecting a continental flavour into the original designs for *Newsday*, on which it is based. The Mirror Group's editor-in-chief, Mike Molloy, is tipped to edit the new title, which it is hoped will have a circulation in the UK and Europe of more than 200,000, with a London-based staff of 100 and a Paris office of 15 or 20.

The group yesterday announced the appointment of a new advertising agency, Gold Greenleaf Trust, to try to raise the flagging sales of the *Daily Mirror*. GGT's predecessor, Young & Rubicam, will handle Mirror Group corporate advertising.

Milne speaks

The BBC Board of Governors has become more political in its complexion with the appointment of more members of "a manifestly conservative turn of mind", according to the former director-general, Alasdair Milne.

The board has a conservative look about it, its thinking tends to be conservative, and that is something I regret because it tends to play into political hands in a way that is unhealthy," he says in a BBC radio interview one month his first since he was dismissed last year. He also discusses BBC coverage of the Falklands and the miners' strike, the *Real Lives* affair, and his own dismissal, which he describes as "outrageous".

Briefly...

Staff at *Over 21* will have to wait until the end of the week to know if their jobs are safe. Spotlight Magazines is looking for a buyer for the title, which otherwise faces closure. Toy advertisers meet for a half-day seminar on Friday to discuss the guidelines on advertising to children amid growing pressure for a ban on toy ads. However, a recent survey found only 23 per cent of MPs want tighter controls. Lindsay Taylor, the only man to get an interview with Captain Simon Hayward in his Swedish prison cell, and the first reporter on the scene at the King's Cross fire, is the winner of this year's Sony Reporter of the Year award. Mrs Thatcher wants to remove the word "British" from the BBC, according to Tory MP Jonathan Aitken. "She made a throw-away remark to colleagues, rather like 'Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?'"

Scottman, have already had to do. The NUJ in London sees the move as the latest in a series designed to "de-unionize" Thomson Regional Newspapers, which has repudiated union agreements at its papers in England and Wales. At Scotsman publications, where management and unions are building bridges after a dispute last year, they are playing down the move. The NUJ in Edinburgh, which welcomes the new paper, says there are no signs of any intention to scrap the house agreement.

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Senior editorial staff joining the *Scotland on Sunday* are being asked to sign a "no-strike" agreement, something their colleagues on the *new* paper's daily stablemate, *The*

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Free for all, fair for all?

There are fears that trade barriers will lift only in theory when Europe becomes a single market, writes Carys Bowen-Jones

little to offer the consumer, which are time-consuming, costly, and deliberately anti-market," says Alastair Tempest, director of external affairs of the European Association of Advertising Agencies, which last week presented its part of the review to the European Commission.

France, for example, bans television advertisements for overseas tourism, overseas airlines, cinemas, books, and retail outlets. Belgium im-

uniform marketing campaign across a number of countries.

"The big multinationals will always find a way round them, they have the marketing money to make the necessary changes for individual countries. But the smaller companies aren't going to be able to afford to employ a multinational advertising agency with the necessary experience," Tempest says.

In Germany, for example,

Advertisers whose television campaigns include children can at least take solace, however, in the removal of one of the more bizarre restrictions in force until some five years ago in Austria - where dwarves had to be cast instead of children.

The approach of the single European market in 1992 has prompted the first wide-ranging review of advertising and marketing regulations in the Community. The review, by the European trade bodies of the main marketing service sectors (advertising, PR, sales promotion, direct marketing, and market research), aims to curb the expected increase in regulations, masquerading as consumer protection, as countries attempt to block the entry of foreign goods.

"Most [regulations] fulfil their given task to our general benefit as consumers, but there are some, which have

Hargreaves maintains the same complaints will be made. "You would expect to see a change in any organization that has changed as much as this one," he says. "Today's arrangements will see us start to improve. It's a tremendously exciting time."

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lobby

consumers layers of bureaucracy and requiring programmes to be "referred" to a committee of experts without ensuring better results after more than a year in the job.

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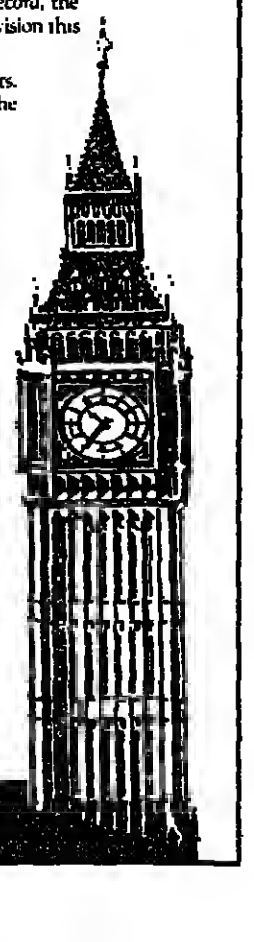
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MEDIA CREME

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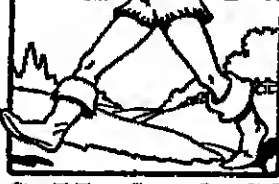
We are looking for one or possibly two people to join us to develop our marketing and retail operations in Southern England.

The job would be geared to suit the individual, but is likely to involve retail management, merchandising and some wholesale selling. We believe strongly in giving the right people independent responsibilities.

The right candidate is likely to be between 25-35 with some experience in retail or concession management and/or merchandising. They will be looking for a new challenge and the opportunity to broaden their experience in a small expanding company.

Salary is likely to be between £15-25,000 plus car, pension, health insurance etc.

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The Job: A small in-house communications department handles press, public and membership relations. A researcher/writer is required to create and maintain an information resource within the department and to research and draft speeches, articles and information leaflets. The successful candidate will also assist in handling press enquiries and draft press releases.

The successful candidate: will almost certainly be a graduate who has already provided a similar service to an individual or organisation. Knowledge of the Financial Services Act and of the role of the independent financial adviser is necessary. Candidates need to have a positive and flexible approach to the position which is newly-created in an organisation which has expanded rapidly over the last year.

The remuneration package will include pension and other benefits, and will be no barrier to a candidate with the appropriate experience and track record.

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SALES EXECUTIVE



WOLFF SYSTEM as specialist in the tanning and health/fitness field requires sales executive for the UK market.

Applicants should have an ability to organize the sale of our interesting range of products and also to market new lines. He/she should be able to run an own office in Greater London.

The company benefit package includes an attractive salary and a company car. Starting period will be in Switzerland.

Please apply in writing to: Managing Director WOLFF SYSTEM AG Hauptstrasse 19 CH-4455 Zuzgen Switzerland Telephone: 004176126 86 68

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME



Trapped in the job Jungle?

Let us help you plan your escape!

Hobstones' City doors are now open - come and see us at 15 Devonshire Row, EC2, close to Liverpool Street station. If you have good secretarial skills, we can help you find your next City job or provide you with varied temporary work.

Call us now on 247 4354



SECRETARY to Main Board Director

West London

Beecham, a successful British owned multinational Company, is looking for a top class secretary who is used to working at Board Director level, or equivalent.

A well presented, highly organised and self disciplined person is required, who is capable of combining these qualities with a complete range of first class secretarial skills, including shorthand and exposure to modern office technology.

Reporting to the Group Finance Director at our Group Headquarters, you must be capable of dealing with a high volume of administrative work in a busy environment. To succeed in what will be an exciting challenge, you will need to be calm, hardworking and resilient.

An attractive salary and benefits package is offered, which will reflect the high standards we are seeking.

Please write with a detailed CV or telephone for an application form to: Mr J T Savage, Personnel Officer - Group, Beecham Group plc, Beecham House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9BD. Telephone 01-560 5151 (ext. 3220).

Beecham Group

MEDIA · FINANCE · ADVERTISING · SALES · PERSONNEL · MEDIA

Desperately Seeking Lucy: Lucia Lucille c £13,000

Our client, one of the most prestigious US Investment Houses, has an opening for a young Secretary, aged 20-25, with fluent Italian and excellent French. You will be operating from a hectic trading floor and your skills will need to be a minimum of 90/50.

This is your chance to develop a real understanding of the international market, participate in deals and use your languages to the full.

If you are interested, please call Charlotte Smith, on 439 6021 for further details.

HAZELL · STATON

RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

MEDIA · FINANCE · ADVERTISING · SALES · PERSONNEL · MEDIA

The Law Society

The Law Society is the professional association for solicitors in England and Wales.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

c £9,500 p.a. (+ 2 reviews)

An experienced secretary is sought to work for the Deputy Director of our Legal Practice Directorate, who is also the head of the Property Services Team.

You would be helping to service the Planning Law and Land Law and Conveyancing Committees by audio typing correspondence, minutes and committee reports, arranging meetings and providing vital administrative support.

Applicants should have accurate audio typing, warg word processing (cross training provided) and organisational skills plus a flair for admin.

P.A. TO TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

c £9,500 p.a. (+ 2 reviews)

Our busy personnel team needs an experienced audio secretary to assist the Training and Development Manager with a variety of duties. These include typing and administration in connection with training courses and the job evaluation scheme, in addition to correspondence, record keeping and telephone queries.

Applicants should have excellent typing and warg word processing (cross training provided) skills plus a flair for admin. This is a responsible position demanding an articulate and well presented person with the ability to communicate at all levels and to respect confidentiality.

Other benefits include 23 days annual leave, pension and season ticket loan schemes, subsidised staff restaurant and free life insurance. Please send a typed CV + daytime tel. no. to the Assistant Personnel Officer, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL. Closing date: 5th May. We are an equal opportunities employer. (Strictly no Agencies)

I'm leaving to have a baby...

...and I am looking for someone to take my place

As secretary/PA to the MD of the Riverside Club. (Sally I am also leaving the area so I won't be coming back.)

Riverside in London a premier multipoints club - a £4½ million complex set on 10 acres by the riverside in Chiswick - and all the sporting facilities are available as a perk of the job. As for the work, there are all the usual secretary/PA functions that you would expect and a salary commensurate with the responsibility and position. Please write and send me a CV in the first instance or give me a call.



RIVERSIDE
Shiriana Lake,
Riverside Regatta Centre PLC
Dukes Meadow, Chiswick, London W4 2DC
Tel: 01-894 9496

LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL

£12,000+ TOTTENHAM
You are a free thinking person with common sense and initiative. Develop your leadership potential as PA to the MD of a successful group of companies in N17. Sales background useful, audio + WP.

01-377 8600 City
01-439 7001 West End

SECRETARIES PLUS

DESIGN CUSTOMER SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR c.£11,000

This is an interesting and progressive career opportunity for a confident well presented person to join a successful commercial interior design company, who are located in a spacious, stylish showroom beside the Thames in Wapping (free parking).

Customer Service is naturally a vital part of their operation and you will need to be self-motivated with excellent interpersonal skills (dealing with clients, by telephone, in the showroom, and on site), be numerate and have a keen interest in design. Typing for own use is required. Age 22-30. Please telephone us to discuss further.

01-489 6586



FOUR SEASONS

CAREER OPPORTUNITY
Min OTE 16K
Work your way to the top with this exciting advertising career based in W5. This company specialises in creating the job through, making or test of a better and friendly sales team. A career based on opportunity together with field sales experience in a steady and growing company. Age 22-35 post. Call Kerry on 01-579 9465.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL FOR THE CLERGY

REQUIRES A MEDICAL SECRETARY
This is a 27 bedded Charity Hospital situated at 14 Fitzroy Square, London W1. Near tubes and mainline stations. Phone: 01-388 4964 for full details or call and see the Administrator personally. Whistly scale + LW. + free lunches.

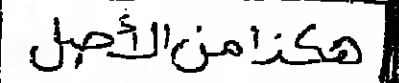
TYPIST/RECEPTIONIST

Required for busy private general medical practice. Skane SA. Salary £10,000. 4 weeks holiday 10.00-6.30. Tel: 235 3002

PA/PR HAMPSTEAD

If you are enthusiastic, efficient and interested in working with esthetic and dynamic MD as his PA and assisting with PR in the friendly International Interior Design Company with excellent working environment please contact Cecile on: 01-431-3527

Call Kerry on 01-579 9465.



FASH FEV...
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RECEIPT...
DYNAMIC FRIENDLY TRAINING COMPANY...
TRILINGUA PA FRENCH/GERMAN ENGLISH...
TRAVEL TO USA...
PA MARKET...
TRAVEL INDUSTRY...

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01-481 4481

JOB SLOT DRAKE PERSONNEL

FASHION FEVER
£12,500
Queen Bee of the fashion industry will be your role with this well known company. Working with the managing director, your day will be varied, getting out of the office to organise conventions, supervise staff and learn the business. Good secretarial and management ability will secure your success.
Call Francesca Peters on 01-831 0666

SWEET CHARITY
£12,000
Are you well educated? Then you could enjoy an academic atmosphere in this research charity's modern offices. Typing, organising meetings and dealing with personnel matters will all be part of your varied day. You will also supervise staff and meet VIP's. WP X-training given.
Call Liz Bloom on 01-834 0388

PROSPECT YOUR FUTURE
£10,000-11+
If you have 60 WPM, excellent S/H, WP plus plenty of confidence and initiative to stand in for a travelling MD? Then this post in a coal and petrol exploration Co. could be for you. A super chance to travel abroad plus exp. prospects.
Call Sue Lintern on 01-834 0388

SEC/PA
£12,500 NEG.
Become involved in a professional capacity as director level with this large international company based near Oxford Circus. Utilise your PA experience to the full for these two partners. Lots of client contact. Excellent skills required. This could be the right career move for you.
Call Jane Macdonald on 01-734 0911

MD'S ASSISTANT
£12,000
Join this young and fast moving organisation and be responsible for all client liaison. Research potential new business and ensure all clients are being looked after. Full involvement as you answer direct enquiries and assist the young MD. For more information, call Liz Drake on 01-734 0911

BI-LINGUAL PA
£12,000
Great benefits including BUPA and free meals when you join this large swim company. As PA to the general manager of the wholesale department you will supervise others and enjoy plenty of client liaison. WP skills are all you need.
Call Tracie Silk on 01-734 0911

PA EXECUTIVE
£11,500
Use your excellent skills to assist the chief exec of this small but rapidly expanding venture capital co. situated near Piccadilly. Travel within the UK and become fully involved with this friendly and progressive team. Shortlisted essential plus bags of ambition.
Call Jane Macdonald on 01-734 0911

VOTE VOTE VOTE!
£11,000
Be responsible for organising the chief executive who works in a political party. Your good typing, WP experience, confidence and maturity will give you plenty of security without pressure, as you run this busy office. For an excellent career move, call Sue Lintern on 01-834 0388

PEOPLE! PEOPLE! PEOPLE!
£10,000
Liaise with 8 sales executives and meet endless visitors from all over the world. Excellent perks including a generous dress allowance, copy typing and the ability to get on well with people with this large hotel group.
Call Suzanne Kemm on 01-734 0911

EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT
£12,000
Looking for an involving and challenging position? - read on. Organise all advertising, screen applicants and co-ordinate interviews. Assist the director of this dynamic young company and attend client meetings, conduct your own research and learn about the world of recruitment. WP skills essential.
Call Liz Drake on 01-734 0911

Be seen with the right company

NTS
TER THE CITY
ROSS THE BOARD
EATIVE POSITIONS
1st year probable
25,000 - £35,000
Many City clients who are looking for you are aged between 22-27 with Sales experience. Have an ambition to break into the top income of the ability to respond to pressure. Apply Greenwich on 01-831 2272.
Alexander Mann Associates PLC

MEDIA CREME
Laura Ashley

tail Managers
00 - £13,500 PA plus Bonus
result of the Company's continued success in the London area, we have recruited a number of retail managers in our prestigious department stores.
Candidates in their mid twenties to early thirties should have at least four years experience in retail management, where motivation of staff and their team combined with strong financial awareness were major factors in their success. As a manager with Laura Ashley, you will be responsible for running your shop independently. This will include control of profitability, the selection, training and development of your staff, merchandising and the layout of the shop's day to day administrative tasks.
The package includes a generous clothing and staff discount, medical insurance, pension, rental plus other large Company benefits.
We enjoy working under pressure to high standards and think you have the drive and motivation to succeed within our challenging environment. Please write with full details of your CV and salary history to Susan Field, Personnel Manager, Laura Ashley Ltd., Braywick House, 40 Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4W.

ROYAL DOULTON ROOM WITHIN HOUSE OF FRASER
Market Centre 53 Kensington High Street London W8 5SE

MANAGER/MANAGERESS
Minimum age 24
We are looking for a bright and energetic person to manage our retail team. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 3 years experience in retail management. The position offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. For more information, please contact our HR Department on 01-831 2272.

Law Society
AL ASSISTANT
1 p.a. + 2 reviews
Apply to the Deputy Director of the Law Society, 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT MANAGER
0 p.a. + 2 reviews
This is an exciting role for a dynamic and motivated individual. The successful candidate will be responsible for the training and development of staff, as well as managing the day to day operations of the department. For more information, please contact our HR Department on 01-831 2272.

TRILINGUAL PA
FRENCH/GERMAN/ENGLISH
TRAVEL TO USA AND EUROPEAN CAPITALS.
£12,500 pa + company car and apartment.
Tel: 767-1272
Mr Weiner.

PA MARKETING
The extremely busy Marketing Director of a major computer company requires a confident PA to assist in all aspects of his working/personal life. Excellent skills and a sense of humour essential. Send CV and letters to Deborah, 250 Kensington High Street, London W14 8PA.

TRAVEL INDUSTRY
Busy MD is looking for young efficient PA with excellent skills, good typing, and a proven ability to work under pressure. Based in SW London. Excellent financial package.
Ring Travel Personnel 01-937 9293

to have a baby...
for someone to take my place...
Apply to the HR Department on 01-831 2272.

MARY HOLLAND ASSOCIATES
EE WANG EE
DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY (20-30) basic to £12,000, package to £16,000.
WANG OPERATOR (18-30) basic to £10,000, package to £14,000.
WANG OPERATOR/SECRETARY (18-25) basic to £9,000, package to £13,000.
URGENT WANG TEMPS NEEDED NOW 26-7.80 p/hr.
KIERNAN O'ROURKE
01-726 4132/600 0284
BANKING, STOCKBROKING AND SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT

Maine-Tucker
CREATIVE GENIUS
£9,000 + BENEFITS
If you want to work for a major advertising company, then this is the job for you. You will be responsible for the creative development of advertising campaigns. You will be working with a team of creative people and will be responsible for the overall creative direction of the company. For more information, please contact our HR Department on 01-831 2272.

RECEPTION TV DESIGN
£11,000+
Young lively TV design and production co. are looking for a bright and energetic receptionist to work in a friendly, creative environment. This is a one-off opportunity for a motivated self-starter with good typing skills who thrives on being an integral part of a dynamic team.
01 493 0238

Outdoor Advertising!
£10,500
Used to a fast-moving media/PR environment? This is a multi-faceted position offering a 60% secretarial role (as PA to lively, charming Director) and 40% Marketing/PR involvement. Your responsibilities will include giving client presentations; researching and raising new sponsorship; liaising with radio stations; keeping abreast of current affairs. You need to be exceptionally well-presented, confident and command sound (80/50) skills. Interested in Marketing/Promotions? Call 01-493 0713.
MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

Secretary to the new Chief Executive.
Hard work, and not at the top of the salary league but, with the Booker and Smarties Prize and Children's Book Week, it's an exciting place to work.
Apply in confidence to: Sarah Morgan, Publicity Officer, Book Trust, Book House, 45 East Hill, London SW18 2QZ.

TRILINGUAL PA
FRENCH/GERMAN/ENGLISH
TRAVEL TO USA AND EUROPEAN CAPITALS.
£12,500 pa + company car and apartment.
Tel: 767-1272
Mr Weiner.

WEST END CAREER WITH CITY PERKS
£13,000 Package
This large well known International Bank needs a professional PA. You will enjoy a stimulating day job supervising a junior secretary, arranging lunches and meetings and organising your boss's Shortland/Typing required. Please call FIONA CUSICK.
01-588 6674

CHAIRMAN'S SEC £14,000
Executive Position Design Group based West End, London. Excellent benefits, pension, company car, and a fantastic salary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the Chairman's office. For more information, please contact our HR Department on 01-831 2272.

SEC PA MARKETING TV
£12,000
Required for Head of Marketing. Well known TV production company. Excellent benefits, pension, company car, and a fantastic salary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company. For more information, please contact our HR Department on 01-831 2272.

CAROLINE KING
APPOINTMENTS
SEE THE RESULTS £11,500
Liaise with top people, get involved in competitive research and help your boss to really build up the business. You will handle highly confidential information regarding the latest deals so lots of scope to prove yourself and see things through.
OPEN UNTIL 7PM EVERY WEDNESDAY
01-499 8070
87 New Bond Street London W.1

CAROLINE KING
APPOINTMENTS
ART HISTORY c£8,000
If you have an interest in art history, lots of initiative and good secretarial skills there is an excellent opportunity for you in this leading publishing house. You'll be dealing with archives, sorting out photographs and organising functions. Very little typing.
OPEN UNTIL 7PM EVERY WEDNESDAY
01-499 8070
87 New Bond Street London W.1

CAROLINE KING
APPOINTMENTS
TEMPORARIES
Come and use your skills in interesting assignments all over London. We offer training on the latest WP's, a generous loyalty bonus and top rates. Audio, shorthand, WP, switchboard or clerical slots needed. Please contact Julian Smith. Very little typing.
OPEN UNTIL 7PM EVERY WEDNESDAY
01-499 8070
87 New Bond Street London W.1

ANTHONY COOK BUREAU
Recruitment Consultants
IF YOU CAN IMPRESS US ...
We'll impress you - with an offer you can't refuse. Problems? We need top-class temporary and permanent secretaries with excellent word processing skills, but the demand exceeds supply. Solution? We will sponsor selected applicants to be properly trained in one of the leading WP programs, entirely at our own expense. This is not the usual half-hearted offering, but the same intensive, 3-day individual course arranged for leading companies all over the country by our sister company, Anthony Cook Associates.
We are also very interested to hear from WP secretaries who are already trained in DISPLAYWRITER 3, DISPLAYWRITER MICROSOFT WORD, or WANG, as we have IMMEDIATE TEMPORARY VACANCIES.
For further details, please call Kyrin Meyer on 01-248 3444/3325.
Graham House, 24 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 1RN.
Telephone 01-248-3404

CHAMPERS IN PARK LANE
£10,000
Well spoken, young secretary with s/h and typing required for Director of fine Wines Co.
Super varied job - deal with VIPs, help organise wine tastings - generally get involved.
Age 22-28.

WANT TO WORK NEXT TO HARRODS
£11,500
Secretary/Telephone required by top Knightsbridge jewellers. Must be well-spoken with both s/h and accurate typing skills, as well as live within a short commuting distance.
Four weeks holiday. Xmas bonus. Free P.P.P.
Age 21-30.

PA TO DS ENTREPRENEUR
£16,000 + bonus
This charming American needs a top PA to totally organise his day and generally be his right hand. Total commitment. Top secretarial skills required although seldom used. Computer literacy a prerequisite and management consultancy background useful. Fabulous people, fun job - non smoker.
Age 25-40.

Bernadette of Beauchamp Place
165/167 Broadway Rd, SW3 1BE
Tel: 01-898 4422

PERSONNEL BACKGROUND?
£16-£13,000+
You have a minimum of 2 years experience of recruiting staff as a personnel officer or manager, plus a positive attitude and an enthusiastic personality. As a consultant with us you will manage your own desk but have the support of your colleagues. Your energy and expertise determines your job satisfaction, career progression and salary package of £18,000 - £30,000+.
Call Lyn Cecil on 377 8900.

SECRETARIES PLUS
The Specialist Recruitment Agency

LEGAL SECRETARY for Knightsbridge Property Lawyer
£12,500 + benefits.
An expanding property group have just engaged a new corporate lawyer. We need a lively, articulate secretary, with good shorthand, to act as his P.A. It will be a brand new job, very busy and with a lot of involvement. Legal experience essential. Outstanding working conditions and excellent perks. Secretaries never leave this company!
Telephone Fiona James on 01-439-0382
Wordsmiths

PA ADMINISTRATOR
£16,000
Join this leading firm of Commodity Traders as an assistant to the Head of Trade Finance. He is an excellent manager who treats employees as individuals and offers business women in his absence. Previous experience of export finance together with 80/80 skills is essential.
Please telephone 01-248 3144.
Early/flexible applications accepted.

Elizabeth Hunt
Recruitment Consultants
2 Bow Lane London EC4

PA/SOCIAL SEC WITH TRAVEL
For International Entrepreneurs. An unusual combination of PA work & travelling to Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, etc. Excellent benefits, pension, company car, and a fantastic salary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company. For more information, please contact our HR Department on 01-831 2272.

TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR
£12,000 + Free Travel + Discounts
Top fashion co. seeks person with lots of administrative cap to organise graduate training and arrange UK travel, co-ordinate plus run dept supervising secretary and clerk. Typing essential. Excellent prospects.
Ms Day
01-734 9160/2693
Stocks Avenue, Sec Com

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY
Experienced senior secretary with good all round skills including 100 wpm s/h and WP (Wordstar III) required in small friendly Head Office of public property company, to work for senior director and company secretary.
Excellent salary and benefits.
Apply in writing with full CV to:
Mr F M Howat, Company Secretary
25 Manchester Square, London W1M 5AP.
No agencies please.

PA TO CHAIRMAN
A young yet well established property development company is seeking a friendly and confident PA/Secretary to work for the Chairman. An astute businessman who delegates relentlessly, he is heavily involved in all aspects of their high-profile business from inception to completion. You will be expected to arrange and attend various events and functions, as well as acting as the 'filter' for the Chairman's office. Therefore the ideal candidate should possess strong social and communication skills, diplomacy and above all, enthusiasm.
Age: 100/60/WP.
Skills: 100/60/WP.
Carrington House, 130 Regent Street, LONDON W1R 5FE. Tel: 01-437 1564

MAYE AIR
£13,500 plus

MacBlain Nash
WEST END
Recruitment Consultants

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART SENIOR SECRETARY
£11,000 - £13,000
The College is seeking to recruit a secretary to work for a member of the senior management team. This is a challenging and varied post demanding professional attitude and secretarial skills of a high order. Applicants should write providing full curriculum vitae to the Deputy Registrar, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2UE.

MEDIA
£12,000
Would you enjoy working in a fast moving environment? Are you looking for more variety? Do you enjoy secretarial work? Working for the Sales and Marketing Director of this well established Media Company coordinating travel, diary, conferences and liaising with clients. Your organisational and typing skills will be put to the test. Deal with your own correspondence and manage the office. Skills 80/50. Audio and WP exp. advantageous. Age 27+.
Please ring 01-580 4766

CROSS SELECTION
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

QUICK-SILVER PA?!
£13,000 + BENEFITS
Aspirin...Washburn...Lancet...Purser...Chapman are just a few of the famous names this top Advertising Company looks to. In your spare time you can be a PA to the Head of Client Services. Your English, professional attitude and communication skills must be impeccable. Some previous Creative Company experience is a bonus but not essential. Your involvement is complete at this level - and your enthusiasm is your unbounded assets from accurate shorthand and good typing a real ability to get on with others is important. So, if you are about 24, call to hear more about this outstanding chance.
50 Pall Mall St, London SW1W 9JL Telephone: 01-925 0548

EDITORIAL PA/SEC
£11,000 pa.
(Go car possible, pro rates; would suit contra-flow driver as Co based SW London).
A unique position has arisen within a small International Company to work with a busy Director covering conference areas. Initially you will be involved in PA/Sec duties but within a short period you will be expected to take on the additional responsibility of Editorial Conference Co-ordinator. Apart from excellent S/H and typing skills (plus experience/interest in WP), the ability to handle senior management at an international level is essential. Languages an advantage. Eye for detail a must. You will need natural enthusiasm to understand the aims of the Co. to enjoy our informal atmosphere and to work the flexible hours required. Some overseas travel.
Please apply in writing to:
Lucinda Balkas, Editorial Conference Manager, CS Publications Ltd., McMillan House, 54, Cheam Common Rd., Worcester Park, Surrey KT74 8RL.

Household Names
£12,000
Superb opportunity for an articulate and vivacious self-starter to step into a dynamic, creative environment with this highly successful Sales Promotion agency. As PA to the 'ideas MD' - involved in winning new business - you will enjoy a fast-paced, diverse role - liaising with famous name clients; drafting proposals; organising extensive travel; occasional personal work for the Europe-based Chairman. Accurate skills (80/50) essential. Fun, informal environment. Call 01-400 1232 to learn more.

STOCKBROKING
- £16,000
What is your interpretation of 'Big Bang'? If you are bullish then a challenging opportunity awaits you as Secretary/P.A. to the Managing Director of a leading firm of City Stockbrokers.
As a key member of the small headquarters team your role will be to maintain liaison between their branch offices, attendance at meetings with the particular task of ensuring implementation of decisions and to look after the social side of their business entertainment.
01-629 9323

HEATON BENNETT
A FUTURE IN OPTIONS!
£10K TO START
Superb opp. for young, bright Secretary who can cope with figures to work with dynamic Figure Co. in the City. Amazing office, great atmosphere. Everyone we have ever met there loves it and are still there...
Phone Carol or Lorna on 589-0888 or 581-5971 (9am-5pm)

JOB SLOT
JOB SLOT
JOB SLOT

KENSINGTON
10 Pembroke Rd., London W11 0TJ 221 5072

WEST END
225 Regent St., London W1 0TJ 01-734 0911

VICTORIA
150 Victoria St., London SW1 0TJ 01-834 0388

BOND STREET
72 New Bond St., London W1 0TJ 01-629 4031

HOLBORN
96 High Holborn, London WC1 0TJ 01-831 0666

CITY
Plantation House, 31-35 Fenchurch St., London EC3 0TJ 01-623 1226

CROYDON
6 Suffolk House, George Street, Croydon, Surrey 01-688 5698

CHAIRMAN'S PA
£14,000
The chairman of an international hotel group is looking for a secretary. A market leader for many years, the group is looking to provide the same 5 star comfort in desert, jungle or coastal climates. As he is sharing the group through an exciting period of change and expansion, the chairman needs a person, able to deal at all levels, with a sense of humour and a touch of common sense. A tower of strength, perhaps. Non smoker, driver preferred. 90/90
Pleasidley Office 625 9686
ANGELA MORTIMER

INVESTMENT COMPANY MAYFAIR
£11,000 + Excellent benefits
Busy Securities Department needs efficient Admin Secretary, WP, Telex (S/H useful), good organiser willing to 'muck-in', confident telephone manner. Excellent opportunity for involvement and increased responsibility for someone with initiative. Aged 26+.
Tel: 01-491 7707

ADMIN/OFFICE MGR.
TV CO. £13,000-15,000
A fantastic opportunity to use your secretarial and administrative skills in the TV industry. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the company. For more information, please contact our HR Department on 01-831 2272.

Mistprestige
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Art deco building being restored

Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission backed the scheme to restore a completely new exterior facade at a cost of £250,000 with the original building. An extra storey has been added at roof level to a penthouse, and the rest of the building has been converted into 10 flats.

There are now six floors and a penthouse, a four-bedroom maisonette flats with one to four bedrooms, as well as three-bedroom penthouses. A new lift has been added to the larger flats, and a television security system. Prices range from £150,000 to £250,000 for 35-year leases. The architects are Gensfield (01-335 8000) and Roland Way (01-581 8431).

New townhouses reflecting a timeless elegance



ROLAND WAY
SOUTH KENSINGTON
LONDON SW7

مكازم الأحيال

An outstanding new development of freehold townhouses is available from around £450,000 to £825,000 (first release properties around £700,000).

Situated in the exclusive area of South Kensington, these properties have been carefully integrated into the attractive existing streets of Roland Way.

The luxury of spacious bedrooms, beautiful bathrooms, attractive reception rooms and fully fitted kitchen. The convenience of a secure garage or underground parking space. The feeling of confidence in the high standards



of construction employed by two of the country's leading housebuilders. These are just some of the ways you'll appreciate the attractions of Roland Way.

Our showhouse opens for viewing next Friday, 22nd April, and will then be open Monday to Friday 11am to 7pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am to 4pm. An illustrated brochure is available by contacting Cluttons on 01-589 1122 or Lovell Homes London on 01-995 0445/6.

A development by Lovell Homes and Balfour Beatty Homes

Lovell Homes **BB** **Balfour Beatty Homes**
A BICC Company

Sales enquiries to **CLUTTONS**
117-119 Fulham Road, London SW3 6RL
Telephone 01-589 1122

LIVE ON AN ISLAND, A SHORT RIDE FROM THE CITY

2 bed apartments from £90,000
2, 3, 4 bed townhouses from £125,000 - £200,000.

- * Just 15 minutes from the city via Docklands Light Railway.
- * Attractively landscaped. Townhouses and selected apartments with own private gardens.
- * Complete with integral garage or private parking bay.
- * Set in watersports development with own tennis and squash club opening summer 1989.
- * Visit the show centre and 6 show properties, open 11.00 - 6.00 every day. For full details ring 01-538 2777.

WIMBORNE WHARVES VILLAGE
Wesferry Road, Isle of Dogs, London E14

A DEVELOPMENT BY **Ideal** HOMES LONDON LIMITED

ROFT RATE (stead)

APARTHOUSE IN BATTERSEA

LAST FLATS on upper floors

Osprey Heights The FALCONS

1 bedroom from £81,250

2 bedroom from £110,000

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<p>RAYS MEWS W1 Two houses in the heart of Mayfair both bright and full of character. One is huge unmodernised and on two floors. The other refurbished with 2 bedrooms, bathroom, reception room, and kitchen. LEASE: 63 YEARS AND GARAGES. PRICE: OFFERS £265,000 and £275,000</p>	<p>CHELSEA SW3 Freehold house with garage, in a quiet residential street, requiring renovation/refurbishment. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, 1/2 reception rooms, west facing garden. FREEHOLD PRICE: £250,000. SOLE AGENTS CONTACT CITY OFFICE 01-225 1520</p>	<p>TOWER BRIDGE SQUARE SE1 Within 400 yards of the Bridge, and 10 minutes walk of the City, a beautifully presented town house. 2/3 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 1/2 reception rooms, kitchen, large landscaped garden. LEASE: 97 YEARS. PRICE: £255,000. Contact City Office 01-225 1520</p>	<p>KINGSTON BRIDGE SW7 Enchanting bright and spacious house in the heart of King'sbridge Village. Accommodation includes a roof terrace, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, large kitchen/breakfast room and laundry room. FREEHOLD PRICE: £285,000</p>	<p>FORTMAN SQUARE W1 In one of London's finest residential blocks, a most impressive 4th floor flat with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, guests kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, lock up GARAGE. All amenities. LEASE: 118 YEARS. OFFERS £200,000. SOLE AGENTS CONTACT CITY OFFICE 01-225 1520</p>	<p>DEBENHAM TEWSON RESIDENTIAL 01-403 1161</p>

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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY/2

IN THE MARKET The £2m castle that was built by the bishop

Amberley Castle near Arundel, West Sussex, is a Grade I listed manor house set within medieval castle walls. It was bought last year for nearly £1.5 million, but the present owner with regret is now selling what is a manageable family house.



The castle dates back to the 14th century when the fortifications and great hall were built by the reigning Bishop of Chichester. Today the entrance through an immense porticulis flanked by two towers opens out into the courtyard gardens, and the manor house, east wing and tower house all provide self-contained or intercommunicating accommodation.

New deals for buyers

The difficulties that first-time purchasers experience in stepping on to the home ownership ladder, particularly in London and the South-East, were heightened by the Budget measure that ended multiple tax relief for unmarried persons who join forces to buy.

PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE

RENTALS HAMPTONS

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- ONSLOW GARDENS, SW7 £250pw Interior designed maisonette in modern block with lift in converted Victorian 2 rooms with en suite bath/shower rooms, 2 spacious bedrooms, central hall, fitted kitchen and patio.

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- ROLAND GDN, SW7 Selection of 1 or 2 bed flats in modern block with lift in converted Victorian 2 rooms with en suite bath/shower rooms, 2 spacious bedrooms, central hall, fitted kitchen and patio.

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Plaza Estates

- ALBANY ROAD, SW7 A brand new 1/2 bed flat in modern block with lift in converted Victorian 2 rooms with en suite bath/shower rooms, 2 spacious bedrooms, central hall, fitted kitchen and patio.

PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE

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THE LETTING SPECIALISTS

- CHICHESTER ROAD, SW10 Magnificent newly decorated period FAMILY HOUSE 3 BEDROOMS, DINING ROOM, SITTING ROOM, PLAYROOM, 2 BATHROOMS, CLOAKING, EXCELLENT KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM, Gas Central Heating, west facing garden and ROOF TERRACE. Long Company let £200 per week neg.

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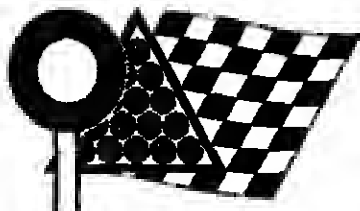
THE LETTING SPECIALISTS

Unbridled joy of easy rider

San Francisco

There is no side or swagger to the truly great in sport, as Simon Barnes finds out in his quest of the over-achievers.

Today: Bill Shoemaker, arguably the most successful sportsman of all time



THE WINNERS

If you concentrate on the athletes at the very top of the top you give yourself an easy time. Because at this dizzy, stratospheric level of achievement you simply do not find any "side." Side is the preserve of the second-raters, the people who have clawed every step of their way, who have had to make the very most out of every single ounce of ability they possess: admirable people in many ways, full of blood and guts and determination, but people who have just a tiny corner of disappointment with themselves.

This tends to come out, not in inner sadness, but in side. It is only the truly great that need no swagger, who need never insist on their own superiority. Certainly this is true of Bill Shoemaker, the most successful jockey of all time, and arguably the most successful sportsman of all time.

He is 56, stands at 4ft 11in and has ridden nearly 9,000 winners. No other jockey is ever close to that

Career statistics

Born: Fabens, Texas, August 19, 1931.
Height: 4ft 11in.
Weight: 7st 2lb.
First winner: Shafter V, Golden Gate Fields, San Francisco, April 20, 1949.
Career winners: 8,751
Career earnings: \$119m
US national champion 10 times
10 races won: Kentucky Derby four times, Belmont Stakes (5), Preakness (2).
Best horses ridden: Ack Ack, Cougar I, Excelsior, Dahlia, Swaps, Damascus, John Henry and Ferdinand.

total. As a comparison, Piggott rode 5,191 winners. And Shoemaker is still riding.

He is the most affable man you could wish to meet and, despite his unusual size, he has more self-possession than any of the shifty-eyed giants among the second-raters in every sport. He specializes in the highly American habit of drawing understatement: ain't no big deal, winning all them races. Eclipse awards? Someone's got to get 'em, I guess.

Charles Whittingham, "The Bald Eagle," is another American racing legend and, as a trainer, he has had his best successes in partnership with Shoemaker. Unsurprisingly, he is something of an authority on the man: "You have to realize that he is a perfect athlete. Great at tennis, great golf player, he has perfect coordination. If he'd been a little bigger he could easily have been a champion golfer. He does everything well."

But the truly remarkable thing about Shoemaker's riding is not, apparently, athleticism but the fact that he seems to do nothing at all on his horse. Not much that you can see, anyway: monkey-wriggle acrobatics and machine-gun whippings are not his style. He just gets on a horse and it goes. If you take a walk around Santa Anita racetrack of a morning to watch the work, people will queue up to tell you tales of Shoemaker's uncanny horsemanship.

ship: a rogue animal will scatter his work riders like confetti, but put Shoemaker on top and they are instantly transformed into lambs.

"Oh, yeah, I play with him, fool around, you know? He responds, he knows I'm trying to be nice - I guess, anyway. Play with the bit, give and take. Touch, I guess - that's my theory."

Shoemaker is utterly without the traditional hiteness of the jockey. It is a pleasure to have a beer with him - and you can. Unlike most jockeys, he can have a beer any time he wants. He has no weight problems and that tends to make for a saner outlook than that of the grim victims of wasting. And he is wholly without the standard jockey's chip about physique: his build has been a priceless asset to him.

Naturally, it was his size that made people suggest he become a jockey. "So how did it start?" I asked him.

"Weren't any big deal. I was going to high school, girl in my class was dating a jockey, she said, why don't you become a jockey? I said, what the hell's a jockey? I was 15 or so, got a job on a ranch, taking care of horses, cleaning out stalls..."

"And was there a moment when you realized that you had something special? That you had something that other riders lacked?"

"No. I never thought about it in that way. But I knew as soon as I got to the ranch, working with those horses, I knew that was what I enjoyed. That was what I was going to do. And I took it to like a duck to water. I worked there for a year before I got on a horse. First time I got on one, that was a great thrill."

"I started riding races in 1949. Right away I had a great rapport with the animals. They liked me. We got on well together. I got along with them better than the big guys, who fought them all the time. I would kind of give and take with them and they galloped for me better than for the other guys."

But how did he make that happen? "I don't know. A rapport, a kind of sixth sense, I don't know. The animal and I, we have a feeling for each other. That's sort of it."

"Have you ever been frightened on a horse?"

"Oh, yeah. You bet. The thing about fear is, you've got to be able to talk yourself out of it. Everyone gets scared, say to myself, if you're scared, don't do it. Quit. But I want to do it. So, don't be scared. Worst thing that happened, horse fell on me, broke my pelvis in five places, bladder, all kinds of internal things. You name it, it's happened. But I'm still here, yeah?"

Shoemaker is so perfectly relaxed a person that it is hard to believe he is a professional sportsman. He has none of the sportsman's occupational disease of insecurity. Parity, this is because of his unbelievable achievements, partly it is his age, but mostly it is because this is his nature, anyway.



"Oh, but he's competitive all right," Whittingham said. You play golf with him, you find that out. But he can switch it on and off when he wants."

"So many sportsmen are pretty obsessive," I said to Shoemaker. "But you don't seem that way at all."

"That's true. I'm an easy-going kind of a guy and I do my job and I like to play with the other guys in the jockeys' room. I think that's part of it. If you can't have fun doing what you're doing, well, get out. And you can have fun and do a good job - at least, I can. Some guys can't. Sometimes I make some joke to another guy in the race. He says 'Shut up, you're disturbing my concentration.' These guys have a different outlook."

Shoemaker is an unflinching joshing, an insuppressible kiddier. He likes to laugh and joke and tease before, after and during a race. Relaxation is that easy for him. There was a famous occasion back in his youth when he forgot where the winning post was, and in a major race. He stopped riding for a few strides, thinking he had won, realized he had stopped too soon, kicked on again - and was caught on the line.

In the next big race of that season his reputation was on the line, his

high temper in 1949. The night before, he had dined with a fellow jockey, and two of them had boasted about their chances in the race. This jockey hit the front and Shoemaker set off after him. He drew alongside and then he just could not resist the jape. He deliberately checked his horse, and said "Hey! How y'doin'?" Then, roaring with laughter, he kicked on for victory.

"I think, it is pretty high-calibre relaxation. "You should be that way. Too tense, you probably do something you shouldn't. I've got more relaxed over the years but I started off pretty relaxed, too - probably more so than the other guys. I have fun. More so than anything. I knew I could ride, I never did worry about making a mistake or losing."

"Do you get excited when you win?"

"Not necessarily so, no. I've kind of trained myself over the years not to get too high and not to get too low. That's the game: one time you're way up here, next time way down there. Sometimes you get beat in a big race, it affects your riding the next horse. I try not to let that happen. I think I've trained myself to do that thing over the years."

"So how many more years are you going to keep it up?"

"Well, I've been threatening to quit for about 10 years but I've never got around to it. I enjoy doing it, I enjoy the camaraderie, it keeps me young, you know? I enjoy racing. I might be off for a couple of days and it's always nice to get back out there... riding a nice couple horses..."

I have been talking with three quite amazing sportsmen, three of the greatest over-achievers in sport, or in the history of sport: the ever-analytical Steve Davis, dashing Nelson Piquet and the laid-back, drawing Bill Shoemaker. Mega-winners: but if there is one thing they all share, it is not what I expected: an obsession with winning.

No, it is their quite unbridled enjoyment of the game itself: they revel not in the end, victory, but in the means, in the thing itself; for their game, for the abstract patterns of snooker, for the oily dangers of Formula One racing, for the magic of the horse, each of these men has one thing in common: an encompassing, overwhelming love.

TOMORROW

Nelson Piquet, pursuing a quiet life in the fast lane

Owners are quick to appreciate finalists' potential

By Barry Pickthall

The 12 Crewsearch finalists who won through to represent the South West and Southern areas in the first of 10 regional trials in this series, sponsored jointly by The Times and James Capel, to find the offshore sailors of the future, have been quick to gain recognition for their skills.

Graham Walker and his Crusader '88 12-metre campaign team are providing an opportunity for the top talent spotted at the recent Torquay and Cowes trials to sail aboard their David Hollom design during their work-up trials in the Solent this week, before the British 12 metre is shipped to Sweden to compete in the world championship in July.

In addition, the Royal Lynton Yacht Club has extended an invitation for a number of Crewsearch finalists, including those who win through at the Irish/Scottish trial at Largs next weekend, to race as owners' representatives in the Crebbin Cup Matchrace Trials and the following Lynton Yacht Club British Matchrace Championship, sponsored by Duracell.

A restriction on the westerly Falmouth for the two events insists that an experienced, independent sailor must be on board each yacht while racing. Nick Riley, chairman of this year's Lynton Yacht Club event, said yesterday that he was encouraged by the high calibre of talent being brought forward by the Crewsearch scheme. He hoped to allocate a place for a finalist aboard each boat during the Crebbin Cup selection trials, on May 14, and provide two further places during the Duracell International series the following weekend.

The offer provides the Crewsearch winners with an unprecedented opportunity to race with some of the best names in the sport. Titch Blatchford, the women's champion, and Nigel Backley, the 470 world champion, are among the up-and-coming stars competing for the single place reserved for the Duracell International winner in the Crebbin Cup selection trials, which this year will be contested by the Lynton Yacht Club's Cup sailors including Chris Dickson, Peter Gilmore, John Kohus and Pelle Pettersson, together with Britain's Derek Clarke and Eddie Warden Owen.

During last weekend's southern area Crewsearch trial, co-ordinated by the Island Sailing Club at Cowes, Harold Cadmore, who assessed each of the 70-trialists entered in the RYA event, was impressed by the attitude and determination shown to reach the pinnacles of a tough sport.

"Most had a very positive, serious outlook, and some were very impressive in the very difficult weather conditions," Cadmore said. "Often it is only when things go wrong, when there is a lot of pressure, even danger, that you find the really cool ones."

The weather certainly presented the sternest of tests, but as the cold easterly wind sometimes gusting up to 40 knots, swept across the Solent, sailing skills had to be at a premium to avoid knock-downs and blown sails.

Apart from the finalists, named in Monday's edition of The Times, three women competitors - Cordelia Eglin, Tansie London and Nadine Warden - drew a special commendation from the judges and now stand a strong chance of winning a place as part of an all woman crew in the Crewsearch finale in October.

CREWSEARCH FINALISTS: Southern Area: Tansie London; Northern Area: Richard Jones; Cockpit Area: reserve: Richard Jones; Mainstay: Ian Goffs; reserve: Colin Smith; Tinnian: John Johnson; reserve: John Smith; West: Nick Newington; reserve: Peter James; East: Roger Giff; reserve: James Young; TOP WOMEN: Cordelia Eglin, Tansie London and Nadine Warden.

VOLLEYBALL

England sweep aside challenge of Cyprus

By Roddy Mackenzie

England recorded their first win in the women's West European championship, the Spring Cup, in Athens yesterday by overhauling Cyprus, a nation making its first appearance in the competition, in four sets, 12-15, 15-9, 15-10, 15-12.

It was a solid team performance that carried England through with Wendy Gate, the captain, once again playing a significant role although neither team managed to gather points with any consistency.

To Cyprus's credit they kept England on court for fully 100 minutes. Although a taller team, they have considerably less international experience even than England, and indeed, before the tournament, had only nine international caps between their players.

Cyprus lost one of their principal hitters, Giannoula Orfanidou, with a shoulder injury while leading 8-7 in the final set.

and England almost let the set slip when the Cypriots recovered from 9-14 to 13-14.

However, their challenge was checked as Sandra Prince, from the English league champions, Sale, put away the winning point. The result had no direct bearing on the final placings in the tournament as both Cyprus and England go forward to contest places 13, 14, 15, with Israel and Greece B. Cyprus will get another shot at England in their final match on Saturday.

West Germany, the favourites, continued to impress and were detained on court for less than an hour in both their opening matches. They took 47 minutes to defeat Spain 3-0 and 56 minutes to beat Sweden by an identical margin.

RESULTS: Turkey 3, Spain 0, Norway 3, Greece A 3, Sweden 2, Denmark 3, Greece B 3, Israel 0, West Germany 3, Sweden 0, England 3, Cyprus 1, Sweden 3, Spain 0.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report April 27 1988

Court of Appeal

Sampling system insufficient

Rotherham Metropolitan BC v Raysun (UK) Ltd
Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Hutchison
[Judgment April 25]

A system whereby the results of sampling of crayons carried out under the auspices of agents were only reported to the company if they were adverse, was not sufficient to satisfy the standard of care required by the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 and the Consumer Safety (Amendment) Act 1986 as there was no check made that the analyses were in fact taking place.

Similarly, sampling in this country by the selection of one packet of crayons from a batch of 1000 dozen was insufficient in the absence of evidence that the standard throughout the consignment would be the same.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council from the decision of Rotherham Justices on October 8, 1987 who found that Raysun (UK) Ltd, the defendant company, had taken all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of offences.

Section 24 of the 1968 Act provides: "... it shall ... be a defence ... to prove (a) that the commission of the offence was due to ... reliance on information supplied to him or to the act or default of another ...; and (b) that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence ..."

Mr James Baird for the council; the company did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF said the offences alleged against the company, who were large-scale importers into this country of items manufactured in the Far East, were that on October 30, 1986:

namely the word "poisonless", when the black crayon contained excessive amounts of toxic material contrary to section 1(1)(b) of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 and that that was due to the act or default of the defendant company whereby the defendant was guilty of an offence by virtue of section 23 of the 1968 Act.

The retailer had contravened regulation 3(iii) of the Pencils and Graphic Instruments (Safety) Regulations (SI 1974 No 236) by selling the box of crayons, the black one having 1,200 parts of soluble lead per million parts of crayon contrary to section 2(1) of the Consumer Protection Act 1961 and 1971 which was due to the act or default of the defendant company whereby it was guilty of an offence by virtue of section 12(6) of the Consumer Safety (Amendment) Act 1986.

The justices found that the defendant company was a co-venturer employing 18 full-time staff with a 1986 turnover of £4 million. It dealt with the manufacturer through agents based in Hong Kong.

The duties of the agents included checking the quality of the crayons by visiting the factory and submitting samples for analysis by a government analyst in Hong Kong. The company also had agents in Hong Kong who monitored the quality of the crayons.

The manufacturer had provided the manufacturer with the legal requirements for the production of the crayons. Only adverse reports by the Hong Kong analyst were expected to be conveyed and no such reports had been received.

The crayons were imported once a year in a single batch each batch containing 7,000 to 10,000 dozen packets, each containing 12 crayons.

From each batch of crayons imported a single packet had been selected at random for sample analysis by a public analyst in Manchester. All the samples analysed complied with the 1974 Regulations.

The company had no reason

to be suspicious by reason of the analyses or from the Toy Importers' Association which would have notified any difficulties encountered.

The justices concluded that the company could rely on the defences afforded by section 24 of the 1968 Act and section 12(7) of the 1986 Act, parallel provision to section 23.

However, his Lordship found that because of the method of reporting to the company, there was no check made by the company that the analyses were in fact taking place. The company relied on a system whereby only an adverse analysis would be communicated.

There was no material before the justices to indicate the basis on which the sampling was carried out by the agents.

With regard to the sampling in this country, the selection of one packet in respect of an importation of 10,000 dozen packets was a very moderate sample. By itself it did not indicate the taking of a standard of care required by the statutory provisions.

If there had been sampling supported by evidence indicating the standard throughout the consignment would be the same, it was conceivable that to choose one in such a large consignment might be sufficient.

But in the absence of supporting evidence and in the absence of any evidence indicating why the company only chose one packet, that did not suffice to comply with the standards set out in the statutes.

So far as reliance on the Toy Importers' Association was concerned, unless there was a proper factual foundation to show the absence of notification by them was something a company could reasonably attach attention, that was merely window dressing which the justices should ignore.

The case would be remitted to the justices to convict.

Mr Justice Hutchison agreed. Solicitors: Mr T. C. Mumford, Rotherham.

Property does not pass until payment in full

Mitsui & Co Ltd and Another v Flota Mercante Grancolombiana SA
Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Staughton and Sir George Waller
[Judgment April 20]

Where goods had been shipped overseas by sellers, named as consignees in the bills of lading, property in the goods did not pass to the buyers, who had paid 80 per cent of the purchase price in advance, until the remainder of the price had been paid.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the defendant shipowners, Flota Mercante Grancolombiana SA, from a decision of Mr Justice Hobhouse (1987) 2 Lloyd's Rep 392 giving judgment for the second plaintiffs, Colombia Fisheries Co Ltd, for part of their claim in respect of the loading, care and discharge of cargo carried on board the defendants' ships from Cartagena, Colombia, to Yokohama, Japan.

Mr Richard Jacobs for the defendant shipowners; Mr Mark Howard for the plaintiff cargo-owners.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that Colombia Fisheries, the second plaintiffs, were a Japanese company operating a fleet of trawlers to catch prawns. They sold the prawns to a Colombian company who processed and packaged them and sold them back to Colombia Fisheries who in turn sold them to their parent company, the first plaintiffs.

The appeal concerned 2,426 cartons of prawns shipped by the Colombian company on board a vessel belonging to the defendants. On discharge, the prawns were found to be damaged.

The only issue on the appeal was whether the plaintiffs had title to sue in tort. A claim could be made for damage to goods on board a ship by the person who was owner of the goods at the time the damage occurred suing in tort.

The judge held that Colombia Fisheries became owners of the goods on shipment. Hence their

claim succeeded in tort to the extent that the damage was found to have occurred while the goods were in the custody of the defendant shipowners.

Colombia Fisheries had agreed to buy the prawns from the Colombian sellers. No copy of the contract was available but the judge found that it contained the term "FOB" (free on board). Payment of 80 per cent of the price had been made before shipment by means of a letter of credit.

There was no evidence as to how the remaining 20 per cent was or should have been paid, but his Lordship was inclined to assume that it was payable as a second instalment of the letter of credit, against presentation of the bills of lading. What was important was that there was no evidence as to when it was paid, whether before or after the

damage to the prawns.

The defendants argued that the property passed to Colombia Fisheries only when the remaining 20 per cent of the price was paid, and that, as there was no evidence that that had occurred before the damage, the claim in tort must fail.

The goods were ascertained on shipment and it was agreed that once that happened section 17 of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 applied. Accordingly, the problem had to be solved by the means set out in section 17(2), and various presumptions were supplied by sections 18 and 19.

By the bills of lading the goods were deliverable to the order of the sellers. Consequently, the prima facie presumption under section 19 was that they reserved the right of disposal. Unless that presumption was displaced, it had the result that

the property did not pass to the buyers until the condition imposed by the sellers was fulfilled. That condition was, presumably, that the balance of the price was paid.

According to Mr Howard, the intention of the parties that the property be passed on shipment was to be derived from the facts that 80 per cent of the price had been paid and a letter of credit was available which, it was to be assumed, secured payment of the remaining 20 per cent.

It seemed to his Lordship that in the ordinary way a seller would not wish to part with the property in his goods if they were shipped overseas until he had been paid to full. Of course, he might choose to give credit, but his Lordship could not readily infer that he intended to do so.

The basis of the plaintiffs' claim was that the defendants were in breach of the implied conditions that the car should be reasonably fit for the purpose and should be of merchantable quality.

Section 14(6) of the 1979 Act provided the extended definition of "merchantable quality" that was first introduced by the Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act 1973.

That wider definition had been considered by the Court of Appeal in Rogers v Parish (Scarborough) Ltd (1987) QB 933 in relation to a new car. It was held that in considering whether a car was of merchantable quality the court had to consider not merely the buyer's purpose of driving the car but of his doing so with the appropriate degree of comfort, ease of handling and pride in the car's outward appearance.

The defendants here argued that that test applied only to new cars and that the old test of "roadworthiness" continued to apply in relation to sales of second-hand cars. But that argument was not acceptable. It followed that Judge Lipfriend,

Test of merchantable quality of used car

Ltd, were a finance company through whom the car had been bought by hire purchase.

Section 14 of the 1979 Act provides: "(6) Goods of any kind are of merchantable quality ... if they are as fit for the purpose or purposes for which goods of that kind are commonly bought as it is reasonable to expect having regard to any description applied to them, the price (if relevant) and all the other relevant circumstances ..."

Mrs Jennifer Horne-Roberts for the plaintiffs; Mr Jonathan Bellamy for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER said that in October 1985 the plaintiffs entered into an hire purchase agreement with the defendants for the purchase of the car. It was two and a half years old and had 37,000 miles recorded. The price was £14,850.

After being driven for 800 miles it broke down suffering from loss of compression and therefore power: it was found that the valves and valve guides were worn or burst out.

It was difficult to draw any distinction for that purpose between a seller who had received 80 per cent of the price in advance and one who had received 50 per cent and one who had received nothing. Nor could much weight be attached to the fact that the balance of the price was payable by letter of credit.

Looking at the case as a whole, his Lordship did not consider that the presumption in section 19 had been displaced. If the parties had wanted to insert Colombia Fisheries as consignees in the bills of lading, Lord Justice Purchas delivered a concurring judgment and Sir George Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley; Clyde & Co, Guildford.

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CRICKET: SOMERSET TUMBLE TO DEFEAT ON A RAIN-AFFECTED FIRST DAY OF THE BENSON AND HEDGES CUP

Hampshire steered to welcome win by Nicholas

By Ivo Tennant

Taunton (Somerset won the toss) Hampshire (2pts) beat Somerset by five wickets.

After being defeated in two days by Surrey and falling short of their target last Sunday, it will have come as quite a relief to Hampshire to return to winning ways.

No one is more conscious of this than Mark Nicholas, the Hampshire captain, who made the highest score yesterday and, indeed, the match-winning one.

It did not seem initially that Somerset would rue the absence of Crowe, who had influenza.

There is a form of the game which, coming as it does from Australia, he knows all about.

Headingley (Northamptonshire won) Yorkshire have scored 116 without loss from 27 overs.

Both players reached 50 in the 25th over and felt in such command that the umpires ought to go off for bad light.

When play resumes this morning, Yorkshire have the third man boundary with his first ball.



Sweeping gesture: Alan Wells waits the ball away en route to a half century against Kent (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Four-day crusade vindicated Rain halts the Universities' vain attempt for honours

By Alan Lee

The concept of four-day matches has polarized cricket in recent years. After one round of the tentative experiment opposition is softening.

There is good cause for thinking that at least three matches would have been satisfactory.

More important than results, in the broad scheme of things, is quality of cricket.

Slow bowlers were also much in evidence, especially at Old Trafford and Chelmsford.

Refinements must still be made but of teams continue to approach the scheme positively.

Lloyd's XI will include the Pakistan captain, Imran Khan, and his deputy, Javed Miandad.

By John Woodcock

Harding's looking more like breaking than Bolting's and Barry was a perfectly presentable third seamer.

Although the scorecard may suggest otherwise, the Universities looked as though they could bat, which made their reply more disappointing.

Three, before Christopher Crowdy helped hurry the match to an conclusion.

Clive Rice, leading Scotland for the first time, was one of the few batsmen to come to terms with Derbyshire's strong hand of quick bowlers in the tie at Glasgow.

For all the experience in their ranks, Minor Counties were unable to cause Nottinghamshire any problems at Trent Bridge and were beaten by eight wickets.

Lewis, even sharper than DeFreitas on this evidence, weighed in with the wickets of Hughes and Watkinson with successive balls and when bad light stopped play, Lancashire had 46 runs of their best for only 46 runs.

By Jack Bailey

LEICESTER: Lancashire are 46 for six in reply to Leicestershire's 213 for 8.

Adverse conditions have left Leicestershire and Hedges Cup mate in the lap of the Gods.

Almost before they had taken ground, Fowler, Mendis and Fairbrother had been despatched by DeFreitas, bowling right-arm fast.

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By Geoffry Wheeler

Kent bowlers are back in business

Kent bowlers, battered unmercifully by the Essex batsmen in the record breaking championship match at Chelmsford, regained confidence and composure against Sussex at Hove in yesterday's Benson and Hedges Cup.

Alan Wells, with 53, alone threatened the bowlers' control until the eighth wicket pair, Standing and Pringle, added 53 in the last seven overs of the innings.

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Small empires of snooker Sport in danger of running out of control

COMMENTARY

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

Nothing could have been a more appealing advertisement for a sport than last weekend's second round match between Stephen Hendry and Jimmy White in the Embassy world professional snooker championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

Yet the past year has seen snooker experience the kind of continuous and scandalous advertising publicity which in another era of circuses, could have put Bertram Mills, the Marx brothers, or Mrs Dale's Diary out of business.

However, the all too evident lack of administrative discipline was compounded by the fact that the game was becoming repetitive and boring.

Such development, and the integration of Hearn's World Match Play, needs the kind of business acumen which players such as Virgo cannot be expected to possess.

Hearn resigned from the WPBSA board because of his vested interests; which are symptomatic, he says, of the board's present impossible constitution.

It is the old story of conflicting small empires. Altruism is called for.

Two-tier system of tournaments

COMMENTARY

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

Within another five years, the top 16 players will be under 25, Ian Doyle, Hendry's manager, says.

At present, only the bottom 10 ranked professionals are obliged to play off annually against the best amateurs looking for 'pro' status.

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Generation of old faithfuls vanished

COMMENTARY

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

Talking to those assembled in Sheffield, there was apparent a unanimity on the need for a governing body of a sport expanding so fast it is in danger of running out of control.

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YACHTING

COMMENTARY

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

Britain's women continued to spearhead medal hopes at the French pre-Olympic regatta here yesterday, with Cathy Foster and Jackie Paton finishing sixth in the women's 470 class to stand second overall.

Britain's previous high-flyers, Debbie Farr and Susan Hay, fell victim to yesterday's unpredictable five-to-ten knot shifting breeze crossing the line 27th, but the second and third they have scored in previous rounds helped them maintain third overall in this high-scoring series.

Another to stand third overall yesterday was the British Finn sailor, Tim Taviner, despite an indifferent 14th placing. Stuart Childerley and Lawrence Crispin, Taviner's rivals for Britain's single-handed berth at the Olympics later this year, both finished in the shifting breeze finishing the day at disappointing 35th and 58th.

Another to stand third overall yesterday was the British Finn sailor, Tim Taviner, despite an indifferent 14th placing.

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WOMEN SHOW THE WAY

COMMENTARY

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

Britain's women continued to spearhead medal hopes at the French pre

As an Irish debutant starts out, English pupils prepare for finishing school

England see red over Black

By Stuart Jones and George Ace

Bobby Robson, England's manager, yesterday reacted angrily to the news that Kingsley Black had apparently changed his mind and decided to represent Northern Ireland...

Robson class sit finals at school of old masters

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Budapest

Bobby Robson has returned to the land that "taught us how to play" to finish his lessons. The Nép Stadium will this afternoon be transformed in his eyes into a classroom...

Anderson and particularly Pearce, the replacements for Stevens and Sansom, can expect no more than to confirm their right to be retained as understudies at full back...

Curiously, since he had just dropped him, he added: "He needs a lift." Webb himself concedes that he was "very poor" at Wembley and was not surprised to have suffered the dreaded consequence...

England team

- C Woods (Rangers)
V Anderson (Man United)
G Pallister (Middlesbrough)
A Adams (Arsenal)
S Pearce (Nottingham Forest)
T Stevens (Everton)
B Robson (Man United, captain)
S McMahon (Liverpool)
C Waddle (Tottenham Hotspur)
G Lineker (Barcelona)
P Beardley (Liverpool)
Substitutes: To be announced.

The Hungarians, beaten 3-0 in Belgium in their last fixture, recently defeated Turkey by only a belated and lone goal here.

England supporters will be searched for weapons before entering the Nép Stadium. Budapest police said that those "in a drunken state" would not be admitted.

"They will be seated in a separate sector, so that they will have no opportunity whatsoever to disturb the peace or clash with Hungarian fans," a police spokesman said.

McMahon was being groomed as the natural successor to Bryan Robson. Instead he is to join the captain of England for the first time, a prospect he relishes.

Robson said yesterday: "The players will miss his influence in everything they do. The specialist has told him that he cannot play for at least another six weeks, so that makes it very tight. I won't replace him with another Butcher because we haven't got one."

Adams, at the worryingly tender age of 21, has been catapulted into the senior role. "I hope he has learnt enough from Butcher to take control on his own," Robson commented.

Liverpool supporters, bent on seeing Kenny Dalglish's side complete the League and Cup double, are posing both the police and the Football Association massive security problems.

No rule exists about being a Wimbledon supporter. Each club has been allocated 30,000 tickets. So the Anfield army is cashing in on an on a situation where Wimbledon, whose average weekly gate is less than 10,000, could have tickets to spare.

The headache for the football authorities and the police will be to keep the rival supporters segregated on May 14.

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Chain up, chest out: Waddle braces himself for the passing-out parade at the Nép Stadium

Two Flyers fined for high jinks

By Norman de Mesquita

Two Fife Flyers players, who appeared in the final of the Heineken Ice Hockey championship at Wembley on Sunday, have been fined £500 each and banned five days after incidents on the flight from Heathrow to Edinburgh after the match.

Andy Donald and Craig Dickson, the club's two goalkeepers, are understood to have thrown beer and peanuts at passengers and sung some bawdy songs. When the aircraft was on its approach to Edinburgh Airport, Dickson decided to go to the toilet, so the pilot had to make an extra circuit before landing.

British Airways are awaiting a full report from the cabin crew, but confirmed yesterday that they would not be taking any action against the two players.

Frank Dempster, chairman of the British Ice Hockey Association disciplinary committee, was unable to comment yesterday, as he had not yet received the club's report.

Flyers' veteran defenceman, Al Sims, said that he had never seen such behaviour.

White sweeps into comfortable lead

By Steve Acteson

Jimmy White, from Wimbledon, the world number 2, swept into a 7-1 lead against Tony Knowles in their Embassy world snooker championship quarter-final, which resumed at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

Knowles, from Bolton, the number seven seed, who beat White at the same stage of the tournament three years ago, began his bid for a fourth world semi-final in six seasons by striking breaks of 32 and 28 to take the opening frame.

Knowles could not hide a quiet snirk of self-satisfaction, but he had few merry moments thereafter. Knowles, 51-21 behind in frame two, scorned a winning chance after gaining a free ball by missing a straightforward brown, and White then made a marvellous break of 95 in frame three, missing the final black with a century in his sights.

A further break of 65 two frames later made it 4-1 and then, with White 42-32 ahead in frame six and the table seemingly closed down, he opened it up again by potting in a brilliant long run to begin a clearance to the pink of 46.

White's break of 78 in the seventh frame left Knowles looking even more morose. Knowles, however, was not hurt an error by White gave him a golden chance to win the last game of the session, only for Knowles to end his break at 49 by missing the pink with one red left. White cleared to the pink again to move further ahead with two sessions and a possible 17 frames to come today.

Steve Davis, the defending champion, and White, are the favourites to meet in the final, and Davis looked menacingly efficient yesterday as he took a 6-2 lead over Tony Drago, of Malta. Drago was in contention at only 3-2 behind, but when he missed the blue with seven reds still left in frame six, Davis compiled a marvellous clearance of 53 to the blue. Thereafter, Drago did not pot another ball as Davis finished the session with runs of 79 and 70.

Terry Griffiths pulled back a 3-1 deficit to lead Neal Foulds, the world number three, 5-3, while Steve James, the surprise player of the tournament, compiled his fourth century so far, a fifth frame 103, as he held the fourth seed, Cliff Thorburn, of Canada, at 4-4.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: J White (Eng) beats A Knowles (Eng) 7-1. Frame scores: (White first) 26-72, 67-21, 102-11, 80-39, 84-37, 78-42, 78-30, 61-60, 53-60. Knowles A Drago (Malta) 5-2. Frame scores: (Davis first) 56-32, 48-30, 67-5, 70-5, 23-72, 58-18, 79-0, 70-0. T Griffiths (Wales) beats N Foulds (Eng) 5-3. Frame scores: (Foulds first) 37-70, 82-39, 88-28, 73-47, 31-39, 9-70, 7-58, 40-84, C Thorburn (Can) and S James (Eng) level at 4-4. Frame scores: (Thorburn first) 61-51, 46-70, 65-43, 59-17, 1-28, 38-61, 22-64, 65-26. Knowles's late routine: Second round: C Thorburn (Canada) beat J Perroti (France) 13-10. Frame scores: (Thorburn first) 104-20, 85-38, 85-19, 1-23, 58-38, 82-55, 41-71, 61-04, 7-57, 70-1, 22-55, 102-7, 72-9, 5-33, 38-12, 73-36, 20-80, 73-35, 178-6-59, 31-32, 61-7.

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY: 10.30am: S Davis (England) v A Drago (Malta) - to finish; J White (England) v A Knowles (England) to finish; 3pm: C Thorburn (Canada) v S James (England) - second session; N Foulds (England) v T Griffiths (Wales) - to finish; 7.30pm: Thorburn v James - to finish; White v Knowles - to finish.

ASA seeking details from SA tour party

The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) believes that the English water polo players who took part in the unofficial matches in South Africa earlier in the year without consulting the ASA have closed ranks over the visit (Roy Moor writes).

It is because of the ASA's difficulty in obtaining the facts of the tour that they have ordered immediate suspension of all competitions involving leading English players, including the national league and international fixtures.

David Reeves, the secretary of the ASA, said: "This tour was such a blatant disregard of our rules and regulations as well as those of the International Federation (FINA) that we are determined to find out the names of all the English players involved."

Revelation of Cup yacht's pipe and tanks

Eyebrows have been raised in British ocean racing circles over the disclosure this week that the 1985 New Zealand Admiral's Cup team yacht, Canterbury Export, was equipped with a two-inch pipe and stopcock connecting large water tanks moulded into either side of the hull which could have been used to tack supplies from one side to the other illegally and improve stability and speed (Barry Pickett writes).

Canterbury Export is now owned by the Yorkshire-based sailor, Tony Vernon, and the offending pipe work was only discovered while the yacht was undergoing alterations. Roy Dickson, who skipped the New Zealand yacht during the 1985 series, said yesterday that it was quite usual to have this kind of arrangement.

Competitors will come from all areas of motor sport and compete over an equally varied selection of events from hillclimbs to circuits in standard Group N rally cars.

Before it succumbed to the pressures of the fuel crisis in 1976, the Tour was beginning to establish a reputation for combining hard motoring and razzamatazz. The organizers hope that the tradition will be maintained when this year's Autoglass Tour begins Cardington in the Midlands on September 26th. Whatever happens, the winner will join a distinguished band. Previous winners include James Hunt.

Competitors in next month's four nations ice skating challenge at Bracknell will be vying for £7,000 - the first time prize-money has been offered.

Anderson takes a gamble

By Keith Macklin

Chris Anderson, the Halifax coach, takes a calculated risk in naming his squad for Saturday's Silk Cut Rugby League Challenge Cup final against Wigan at Wembley. Anderson names two forwards, Fairbank and Scott, as substitutes, breaking away from the normal principle of having one back and one forward.

After a two-hour training session at Thrum Hall yesterday afternoon Anderson said: "I think this is my best available squad. If need be, loose-forward John Peedlebury can move into the backs, and there are other permutations I can use."

Otherwise, there are no real surprises in the Halifax squad, who will travel down to their headquarters at Coghnam tomorrow. Eadie, the Australian full-back, who has not played in the last four matches, is included. Eadie, who won the man-of-the-match trophy at Wembley last season in the victory over St Helens, has a damaged knee, but Anderson said: "He would turn out on one leg if necessary."

Wigan named their squad on Monday evening. As expected, the New Zealand brothers, Kevin and Tony Iro, will be the right-wing partnership. Sheffield is named in the squad despite the threat of suspension that hangs over him. There is no place in the squad for West, the experienced former Wigan and New Zealand captain, though he may squeeze in as substitute if Sheffield is suspended.

HALIFAX: O Eadie, M Meredith, T Anderson, J Robinson, C Whitlock, R Gray, S Robinson, N James, McCann, K Neill, P Dixon, L Holdway, J Peedlebury. Substitutes: R Fairbank, N Scott. WIGAN: J Lydon, K Iro, T Iro, O Bell, H Gill, S Brown, A George, S Whittaker, N Cox, B Cole, A Goodwin, J Porter, E Harley. Substitutes: S Wain, J Byrne.

McGuigan title plea

Barry McGuigan wants his expected world title challenge later this year to be staged in his Irish home town. Clones - at the Gaelic football ground.

The former WBA featherweight champion inspected the stadium yesterday, and said: "There's a very distinct possibility my world title fight will be in Clones. It definitely will if I have my way."

McEnroe wins Ingleswood, California (AP) - John McEnroe, the former top-ranked professional, beat the third-ranked, Stefan Edberg 6-3, 6-4 on Monday night in the finals of the Michelin Challenge round robin series.

Helping hand

Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountancy firm, is to sponsor the annual University cricket match between Oxford and Cambridge at Lord's from July 2 to 4.

Ring dispute

Stockholm (AP) - Television broadcasters are upset by a proposal to use two rings for the Olympic boxing tournament in Seoul. A final decision on whether to stay with the traditional single ring will be made next month.

Sponsor found

The British Open horse trials championships at Gatcombe Park in August are to be sponsored by J Barbour and Sons Ltd, the makers of country clothing putting an end to months of negotiations.

A prize first

Competitors in next month's four nations ice skating challenge at Bracknell will be vying for £7,000 - the first time prize-money has been offered.

END COLUMN

Magyar magic has lost its spell

From David Miller Budapest

There are only six of them left, four here at home, two living in Spain. And no one, officially, now wants to know them, though the public loves them still. Unbelievably, Hungarian sporting bureaucracy has turned its back on the greatest team its country, possibly the world, has ever seen. The Magyar masters of 1953 are yesterday's men.

Five are dead; Bozsik, the genius of a wing-half, Kocsis, the marksman who later went to Barcelona, Radai, the right-winger, Lorant and Zakariasz from defence. So also is Gustav Sebes, the manager, who moulded them into Olympic and, so nearly, World Cup winners and the scorers of 13 goals in two matches against England.

Grosics the goalkeeper, full backs Buzanszky and Lantos and the incomparable Hidegkuti live in Budapest. Buzanszky and Lantos are in the wine trade, Grosics runs a sports shop, Hidegkuti does little more than reflect upon the golden days. Pasikas and Czibor rest on their laurels in respect, Madrid and Barcelona. None of them wishes to watch the game in Hungary, nor are they invited.

Their triumphs bred an envy that will not allow forgiveness of their fame among petty contemporary bureaucrats. Only in Belgium, West Germany and elsewhere are they still fed as immortal players.

Football reflects social problems

"We are not wanted because we dare to speak our mind," Mihalyi Lantos says. "The game has turned its back on us which is painful and sad. Hungarian football is now in the same state that perhaps England's was in 1953 - believing it had nothing to learn, not recognising that other countries had moved forward."

Hungarian football, he thinks, is a reflection of the social problems also evident in industry and commerce. No body works hard. It is a miracle he says, that the country survives. Much of the brains has been exported and those left behind in authority promote their friends rather than those with ability. Even the presidents of local county councils are, ignorantly, controlling the appointment of football coaches.

The same, he says, has happened in other sports in which Hungary was once dominant. Fencing and water polo, for generations the domain of Hungarian experts, have declined, while Andreas Balczu, multiple Olympic and world championship winner in modern pentathlon, is an ignored figure. Envy again. In the 1952 Olympic Games Hungarians won 16 gold medals behind the Soviet Union and United States. And now?

"We will only recover when there is some discipline," Lantos says, "when we have coaches like Bukovi, who will sack a player who has 50 caps if it is necessary."

Coaches forced to go abroad

In 1949, Marton Bukovi, manager of the MTK club which then dominated the Hungarian First Division with Honved, expelled from the club a full-back called Biro, who had 53 international caps and irresponsibly played himself out of position in attack during Bukovi's absence that week.

It was that decision which resulted in Lantos being converted from stopper centre-half to left-back; in which position he later had to mark the most famous wingers in history, Matthews and Garrincha. When Lantos retired as a player in 1962, he spent three years as coach to Olympiakos in Athens, twice winning the championship. Then he returned to take Komolosi, a small club in southern Hungary, to promotion and survival for eight years in the first division.

"For a while after the era of Sebes and Bukovi our football remained good," Lantos says. "Lajos Baroti was an excellent coach, and there were outstanding players in Bencs, Albert, Farkas, Sander, Tichy and others. But more and more Sebes and his school were disliked by officials because he would only work with those he wanted. Increasingly, our coaches were forced to go where their ideas were accepted in the way Sebes originally had been here."

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England's footballers give Hungary a...

Various advertisements on the right margin including 'Sov m tar Mos con', 'STOC WATC', 'NEW WE', 'INDEX', and 'England dr'.

